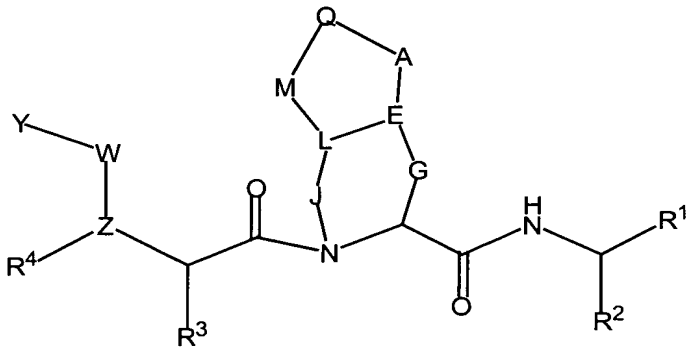
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A compound, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound having the general structure shown in Formula I:



Formula I

wherein:

Y is selected from the group consisting of the following moieties: alkyl, alkyl-aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, aryl-heteroaryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyloxy, alkyl-aryloxy, aryloxy, heteroaryloxy, heterocycloalkyloxy, cycloalkyloxy, , alkylamino, arylamino, alkyl-arylamino, arylamino, heteroarylamino, cycloalkylamino and heterocycloalkylamino, with the proviso that Y maybe optionally substituted with X^{11} or X^{12};

X^{11} is alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl-alkyl, heterocyclyl, heterocyclylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, heteroaryl, alkylheteroaryl, or heteroarylalkyl, with the proviso that X^{11} may be additionally optionally substituted with X^{12};

X^{12} is hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy, thio, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, alkylamino, arylamino, alkylsulfonyl, arylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonamido, arylsulfonamido, carboxy, carbalkoxy, carboxamido, alkoxycarbonylamino, alkoxycarbonyloxy, alkylureido, arylureido, halogen, cyano, or nitro, with the proviso that said alkyl, alkoxy, and aryl may be additionally optionally substituted with moieties independently selected from X^{12};

R^1 is COR^5 or $B(OR)_2$, wherein R^5 is H, OH, OR^8, NR^9R^{10}, CF_3, C_2F_5, C_3F_7, CF_2R^6, R^6, or COR^7 wherein R^7 is H, OH, OR^8, CHR^9R^{10}, or NR^9R^{10} , wherein R^6, R^8, R^9 and R^{10} are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOOR^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCONR^{12}R^{13}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pSO_2R^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOR^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCH(OH)R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})R'$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONHCH(R^{5'})COOR^{11}$ and $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})CONHCH(R^{3'})CONHCH(R^{4'})CONHCH(R^{5'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, wherein $R^{1'}$, $R^{2'}$, $R^{3'}$, $R^{4'}$, $R^{5'}$, R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, and R′ are independently selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyl-aryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, aryl-alkyl and heteroaralkyl;

Z is selected from O, N, CH or CR;

W maybe present or absent, and if W is present, W is selected from C=O, C=S, C(=N-CN), or SO_2;

Q maybe present or absent, and when Q is present, Q is CH, N, P, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, $(CRR')_p$, O, NR, S, or SO_2; and when Q is

absent, M may be present or absent; when Q and M are absent, A is directly linked to L;

A is O, CH_2, $(CHR)_p$, $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, $(CRR')_p$, NR, S, or SO_2;

E is CH, N, CR, or a double bond towards A, L or G;

G may be present or absent, and when G is present, G is $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, or $(CRR')_p$; and when G is absent, J is present and E is directly connected to the carbon atom in Formula I as G is linked to;

J maybe present or absent, and when J is present, J is $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, or $(CRR')_p$, SO_2, NH, NR or O; and when J is absent, G is present and E is directly linked to N shown in Formula I as linked to J;

L may be present or absent, and when L is present, L is CH, CR, O, S or NR; and when L is absent, then M may be present or absent; and if M is present with L being absent, then M is directly and independently linked to E, and J is directly and independently linked to E;

M may be present or absent, and when M is present, M is O, NR, S, SO_2, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$ $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, or $(CRR')_p$;

p is a number from 0 to 6; and

R, R', R^2, R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of H; C_1-C_{10} alkyl; C_2-C_{10} alkenyl; C_3-C_8 cycloalkyl; C_3-C_8 heterocycloalkyl, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, amido, ester, carboxylic acid, carbamate, urea, ketone, aldehyde, cyano, nitro, halogen; (cycloalkyl)alkyl and (heterocycloalkyl)alkyl, wherein said cycloalkyl is made of three to eight carbon atoms, and zero to six oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or phosphorus atoms, and said alkyl is of one to six carbon atoms; aryl; heteroaryl; alkyl-aryl; and alkyl-heteroaryl;

wherein said alkyl, heteroalkyl, alkenyl, heteroalkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl and heterocycloalkyl moieties may be optionally and chemically-suitably substituted, with said term "substituted" referring to optional and chemically-suitable substitution with one or more moieties selected from the group consisting of alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, heterocyclic, halogen, hydroxy, thio, alkoxy, aryloxy, alkylthio, arylthio, amino, amido, ester, carboxylic acid, carbamate, urea, ketone, aldehyde, cyano, nitro, sulfonamido, sulfoxide, sulfone, sulfonyl urea, hydrazide, and hydroxamate;

further wherein said unit N-C-G-E-L-J-N represents a five-membered or six-membered cyclic ring structure with the proviso that when said unit N-C-G-E-L-J-N represents a five-membered cyclic ring structure, or when the bicyclic ring structure in Formula I comprising N, C, G, E, L, J, N, A, Q, and M represents a five-membered cyclic ring structure, then said five-membered cyclic ring structure lacks a carbonyl group as part of the cyclic ring.

2. (previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R^1 is COR^5, and R^5 is H, OH, $COOR^8$, or $CONR^9R^{10}$.

3. (original) The compound of claim 2, wherein R^1 is $COCONR^9R^{10}$, and R^9 is H, R^{10} is H, R^{14}, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOOR^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCONR^{12}R^{13}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pSO_2R^{11}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pSO_2N\ R^{12}R^{13}$, $[CH(R^{1'})]_pCOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})\ CONR^{12}R^{13}$, or $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})(R')$, wherein R^{14} is H, alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, alkyl-aryl, alkyl-heteroaryl, aryl-alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl or heteroaralkyl.

4. (original) The compound of claim 3, wherein R^{10} is H, R^{14}, $CH(R^{1'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})CONR^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})SO_2R^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})SO_2N$

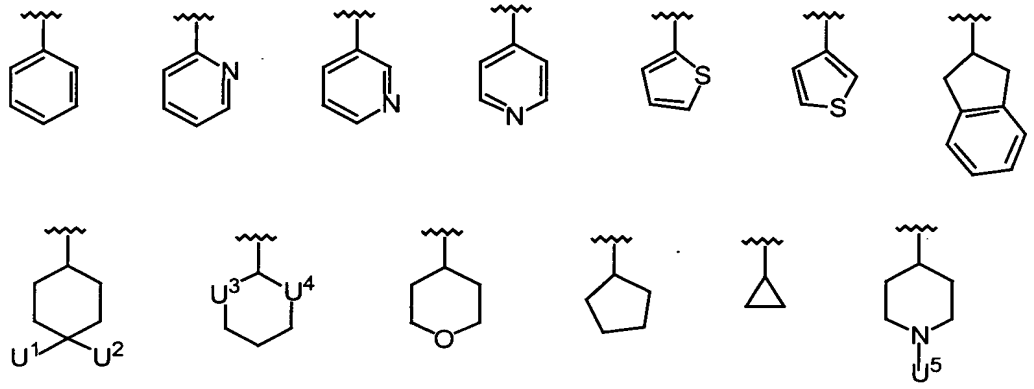
$R^{12}R^{13}$, $CH(R^{1'})CH(R^{1'})COR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})COOR^{11}$, $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})$ $CONR^{12}R^{13}$, or $CH(R^{1'})CONHCH(R^{2'})(R')$, wherein $R^{1'}$ is H or alkyl, and $R^{2'}$ is phenyl, substituted phenyl, hetero atom-substituted phenyl, thiophenyl, cycloalkyl, piperidyl or pyridyl.

5. (original) The compound of claim 4, wherein $R^{1'}$ is H.

6. (original) The compound of claim 5, wherein R^{11} is H, methyl, ethyl, allyl, *tert*-butyl, benzyl, α-methylbenzyl, α,α-dimethylbenzyl, 1-methylcyclopropyl or 1-methylcyclopentyl;

R′ is hydroxymethyl or $CH_2CONR^{12}R^{13}$;

$R^{2'}$ is independently selected from the group consisting of:



wherein:

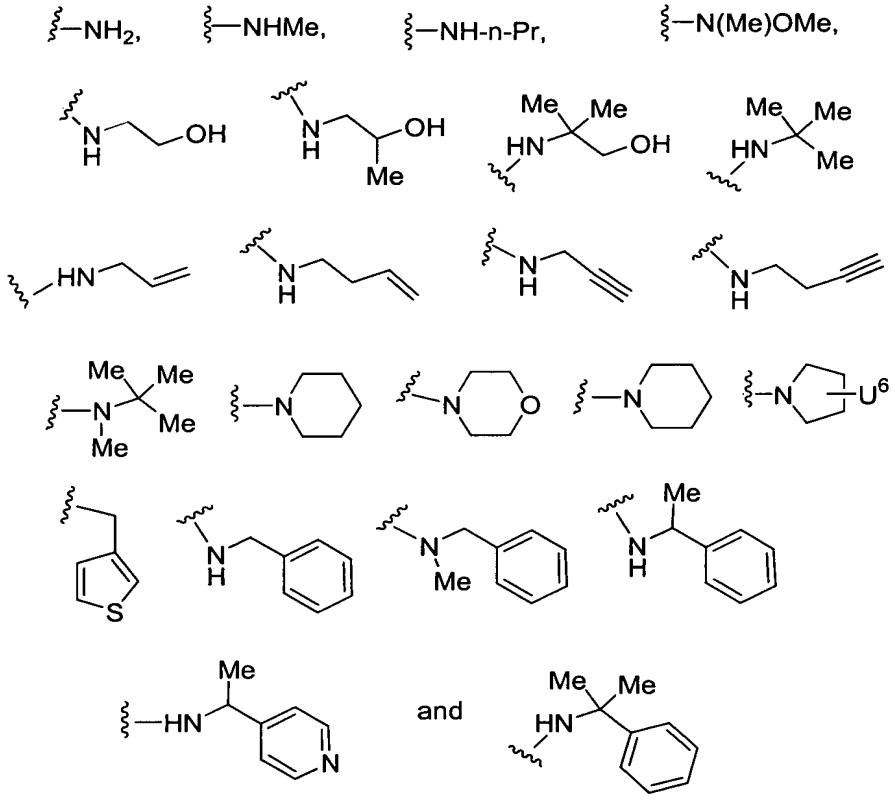
U^1 and U^2 maybe same or different and are selected from H, F, CH_2COOH, CH_2COOMe, CH_2CONH_2, $CH_2CONHMe$, CH_2CONMe_2, azido, amino, hydroxyl, substituted amino, substituted hydroxyl;

U^3 and U^4 maybe same or different and are selected from O and S;

U^5 is selected from the moieties consisting of alkyl sulfonyl, aryl sulfonyl, heteroalkyl sulfonyl, heteroaryl sulfonyl, alkyl carbonyl, aryl carbonyl, heteroalkyl

carbonyl, heteroaryl carbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, heteroarylaminocarbonyl or a combination thereof;

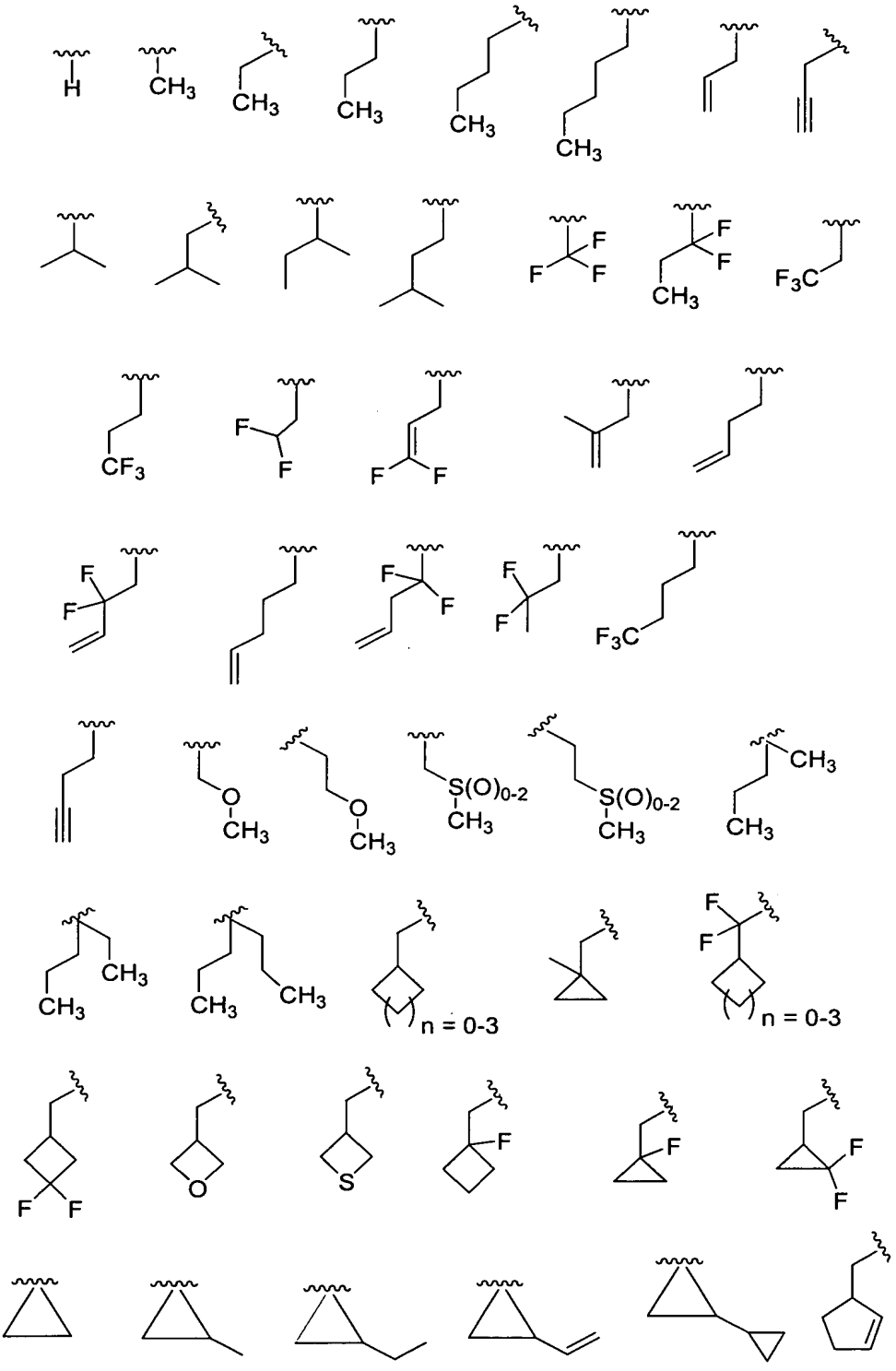
and $NR^{12}R^{13}$ is selected from the group consisting of:



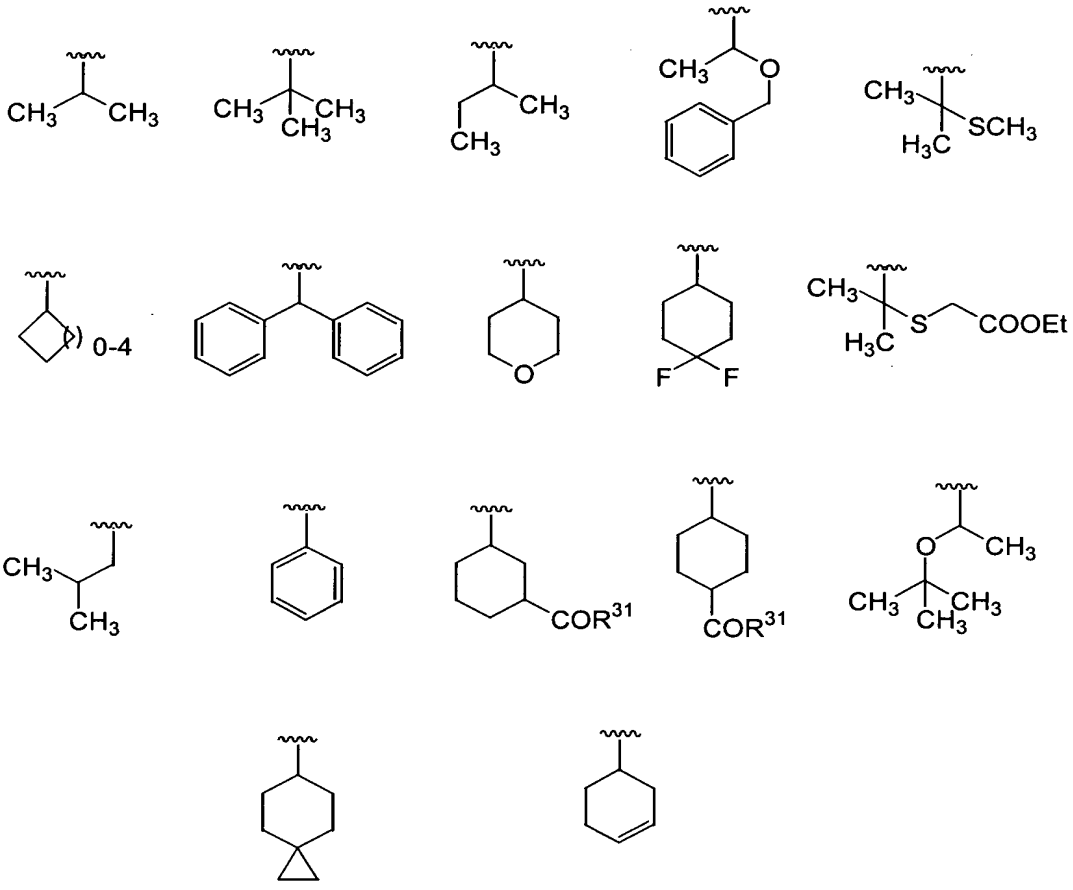
wherein U^6 is H, OH, or CH_2OH, and

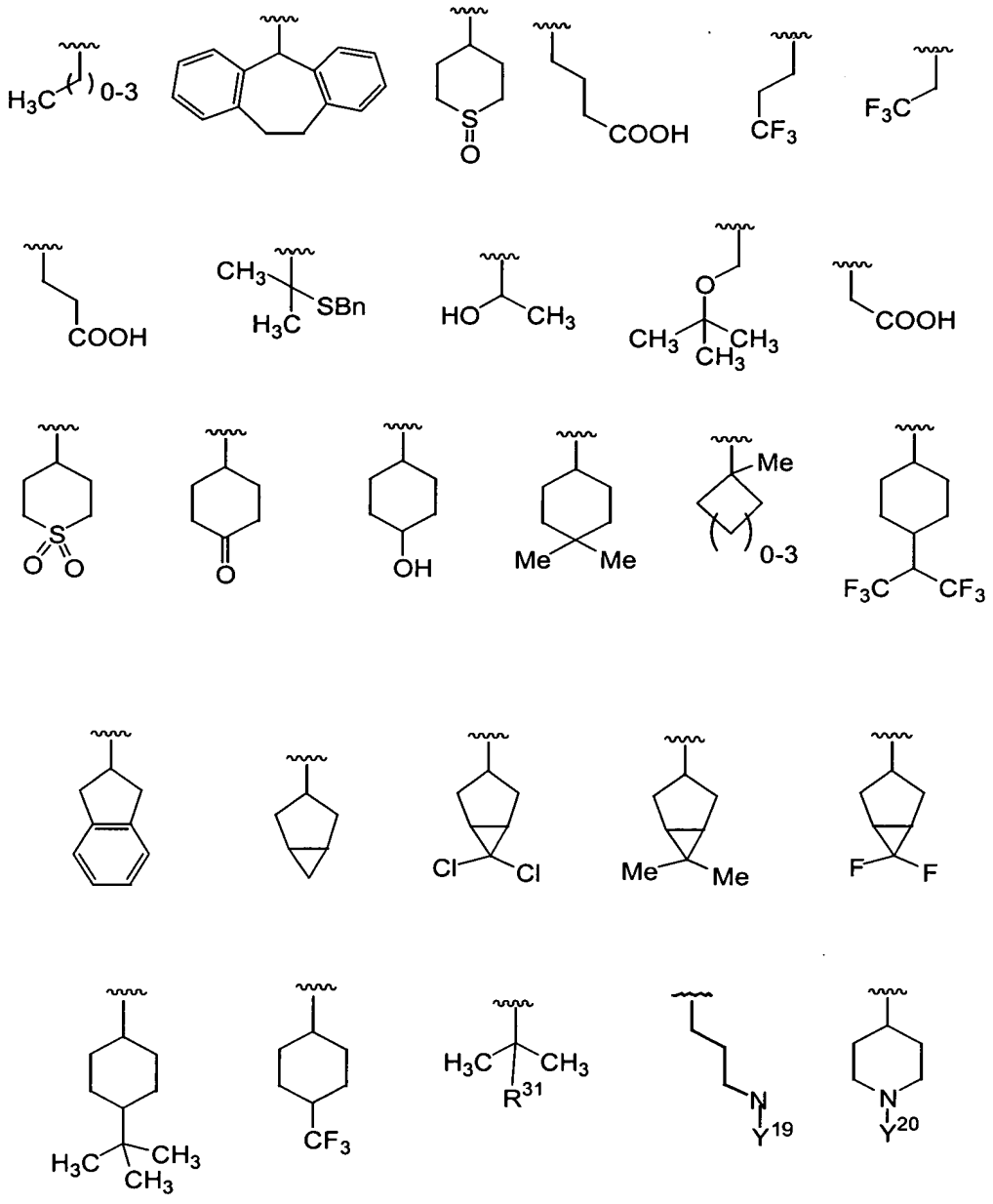
R^{14} is selected from the group consisting of: H, Me, Et, *n*-propyl, methoxy, cyclopropyl, *n*-butyl, 1-but-3-ynyl, benzyl, α-methylbenzyl, phenethyl, allyl, 1-but-3-enyl, OMe, cyclopropylmethyl.

7. (original) The compound of claim 2, wherein R^2 is selected from the group consisting of the following moieties:


H
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
F
F
F
CH3
F3C
CF3
F
F
F
F
F
F
F
F
F3C
O
CH3
O
CH3
S(O)0-2
CH3
S(O)0-2
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
n = 0-3
F
F
n = 0-3
F F
O
S
F
F
F
F
F

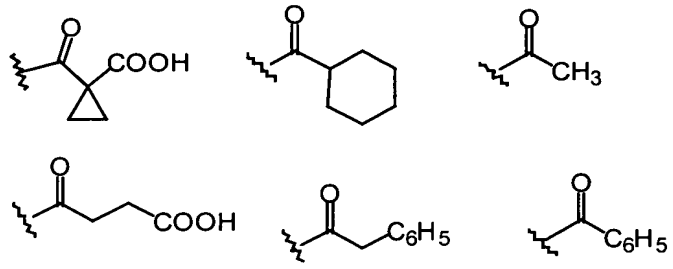
8. (original) The compound of claim 7, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of:



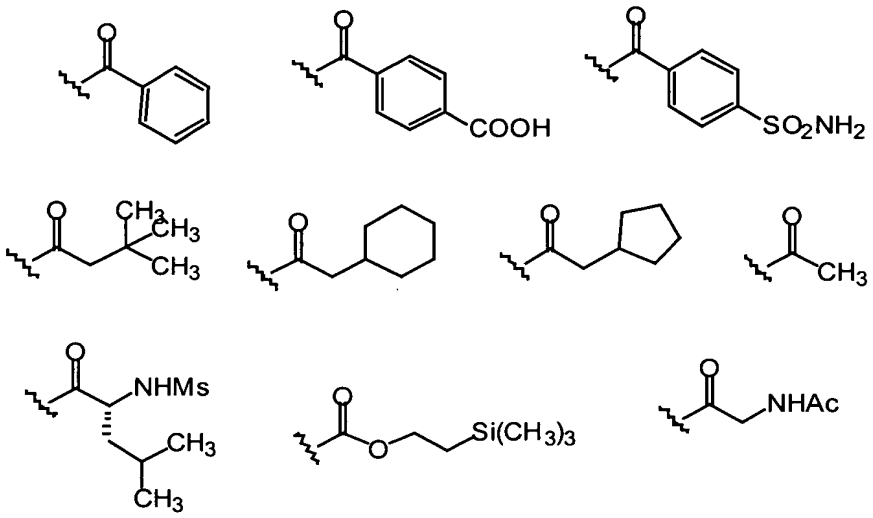


wherein R^{31} = OH or O-alkyl;

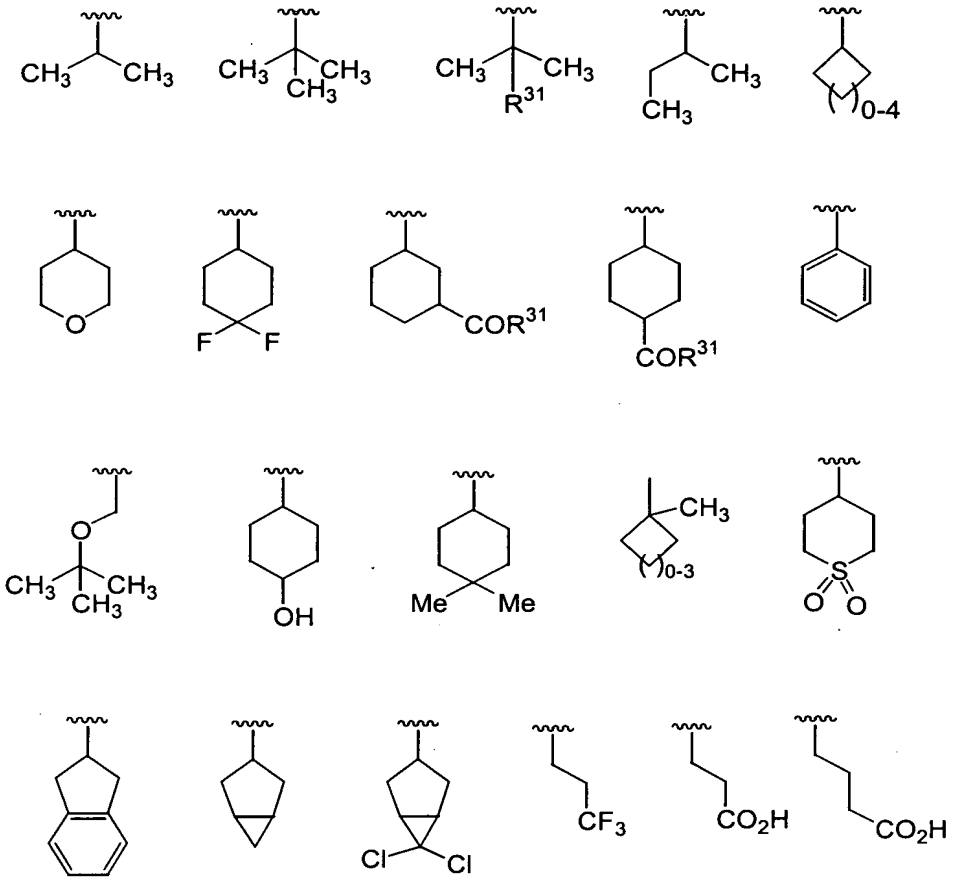
Y^{19} is selected from the following moieties:



and Y^{20} is selected from the following moieties:



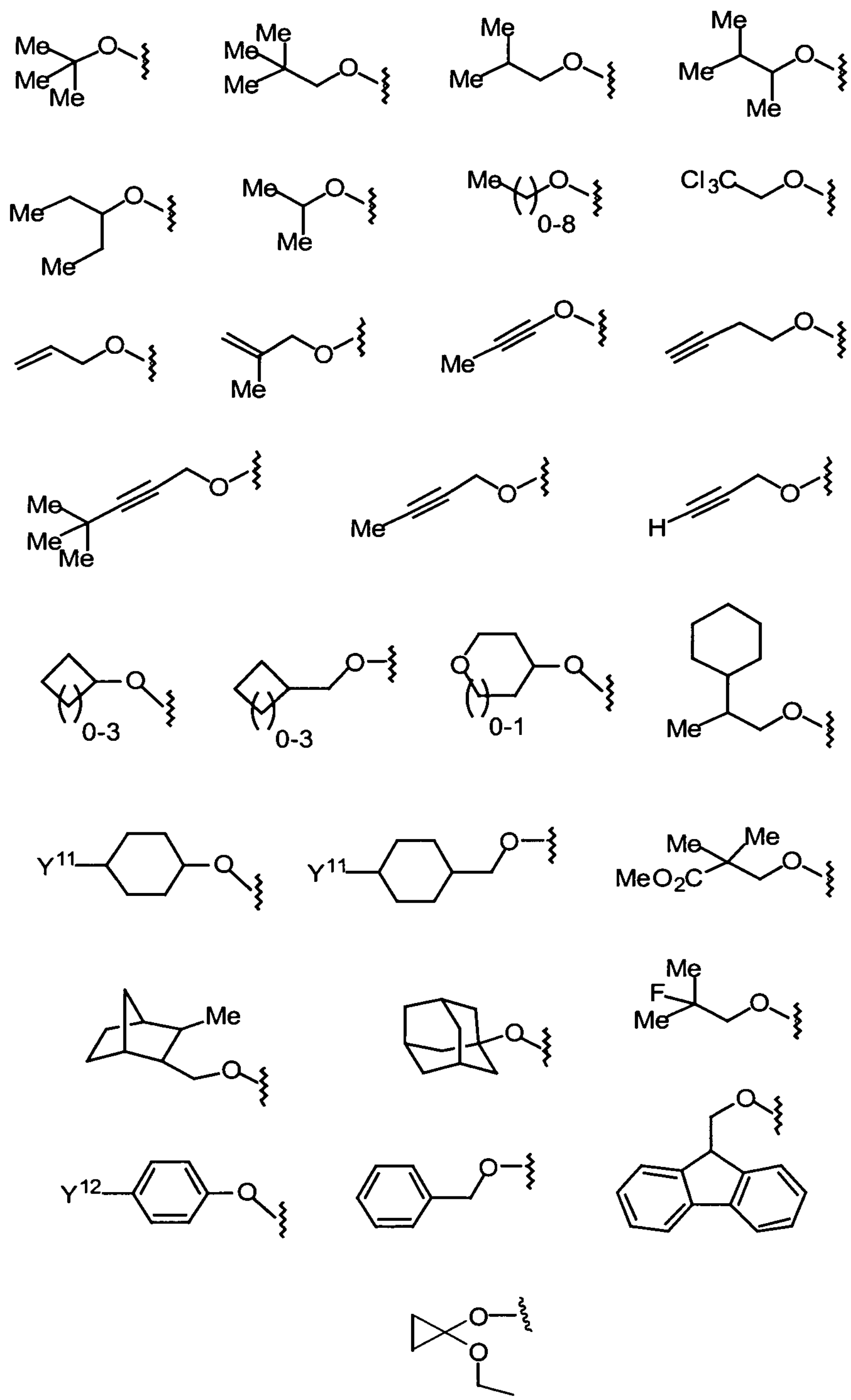
9. (original) The compound of claim 8, wherein R^3 is selected from the group consisting of the following moieties:

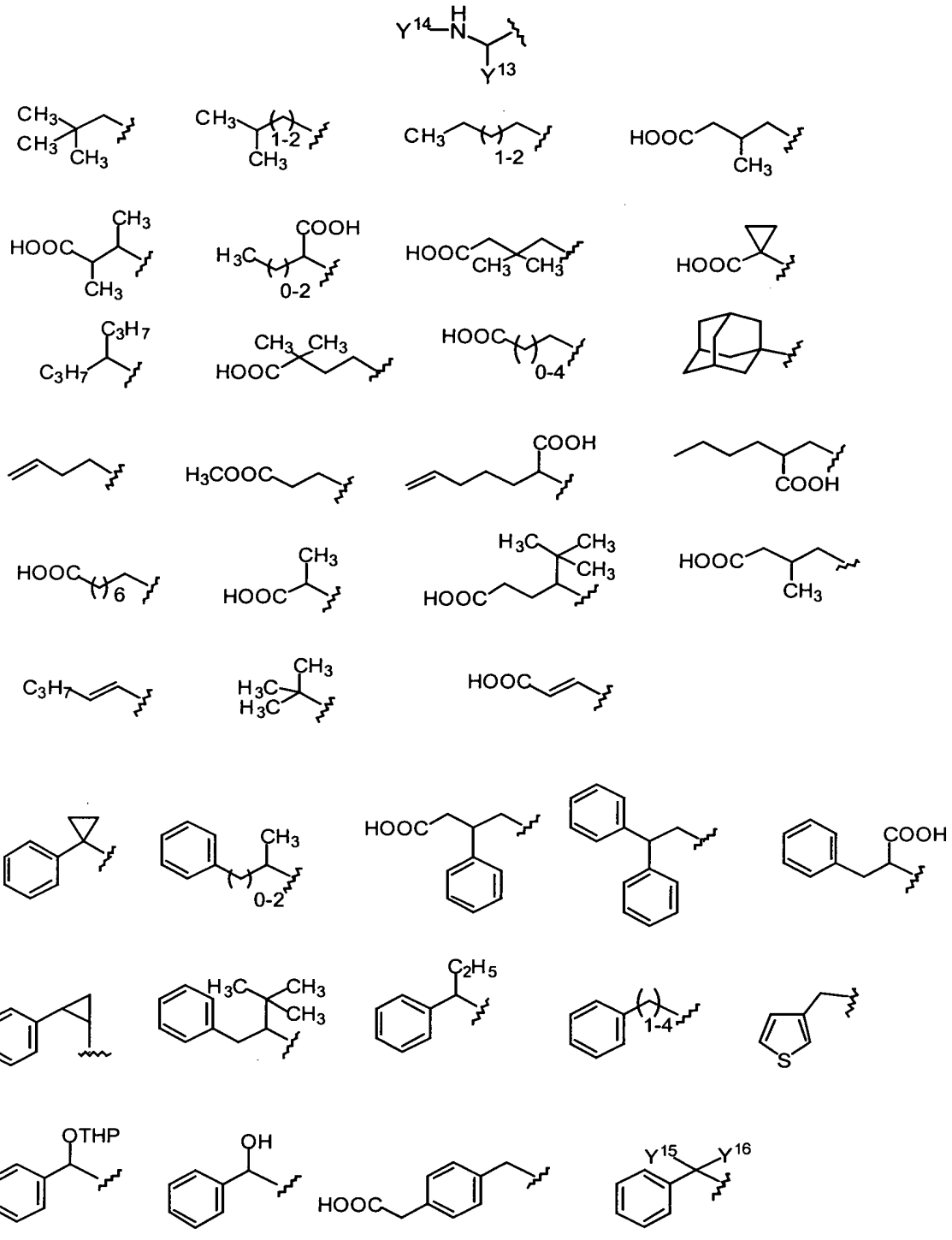


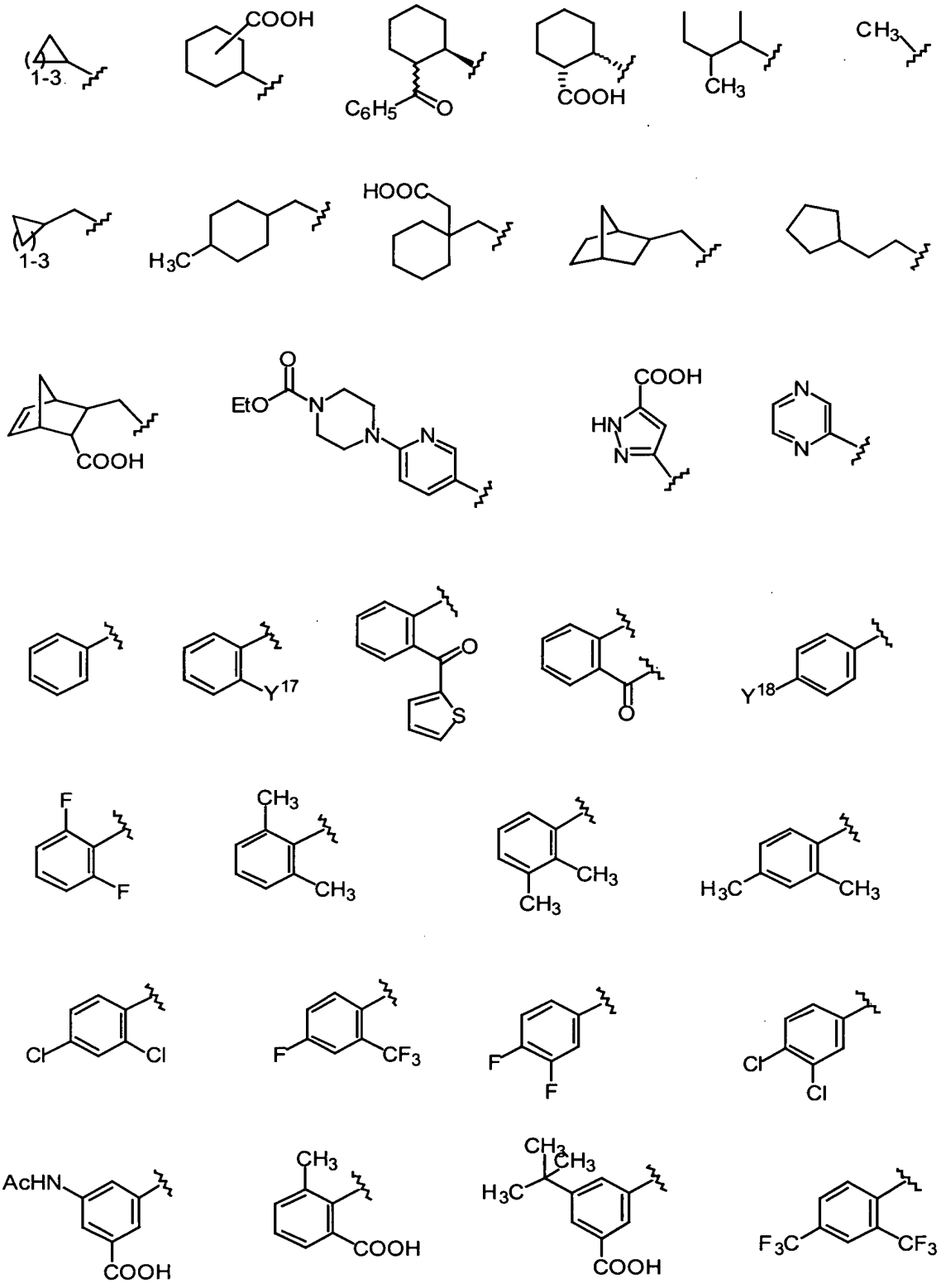
10. (original) The compound of claim 9, wherein Z is N and R^4 is H.

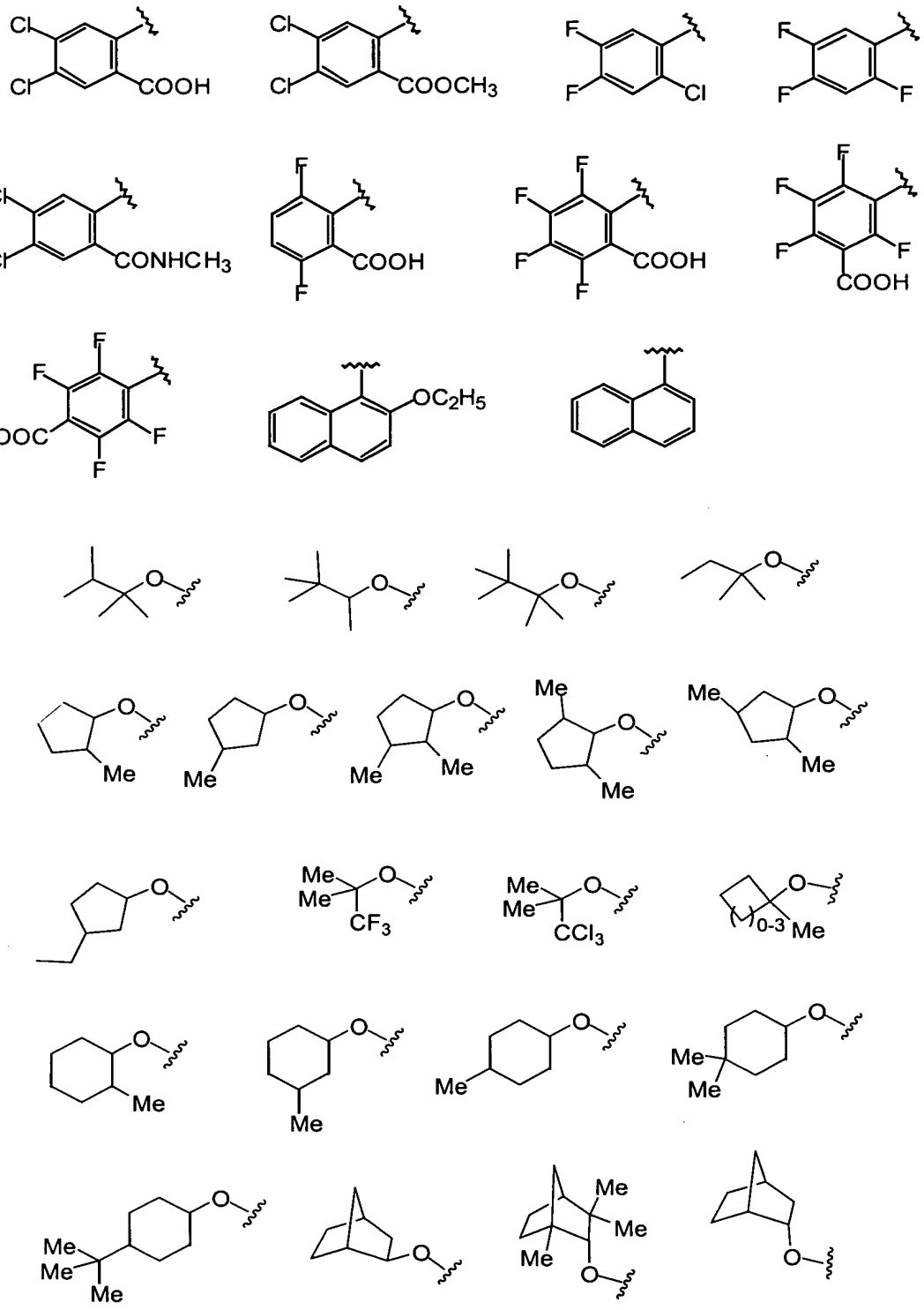
11. (original) The compound of claim 10, wherein W is C=O.

12. (original) The compound of claim 11, wherein Y is selected from the following moieties:






1-3
COOH
C6H5
O
COOH
CH3
CH3
1-3
H3C
HOOC
COOH
EtO
N
N
N
COOH
HN
N
N
N
Y17
O
S
O
Y18
F
F
CH3
CH3
CH3
CH3
H3C
CH3
Cl
Cl
F
CF3
F
F
Cl
Cl
AcHN
COOH
CH3
COOH
CH3
CH3
H3C
COOH
F3C
CF3


Cl
Cl
COOH
Cl
Cl
COOCH3
F
F
Cl
F
F
F
Cl
Cl
CONHCH3
F
F
COOH
F
F
F
COOH
F
F
F
F
COOH
F
F
HOOC
F
F
OC2H5
O
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
CF3
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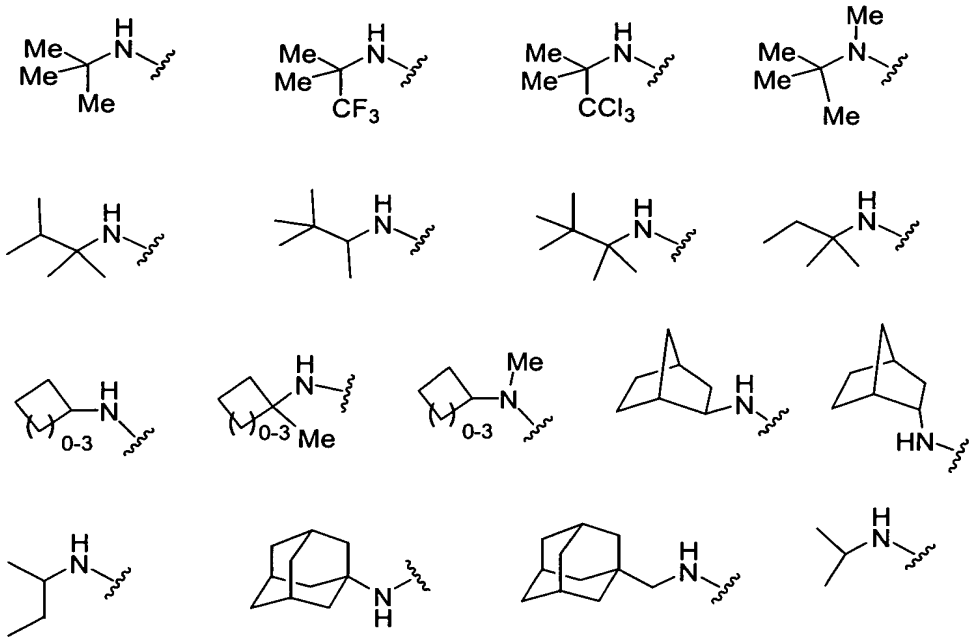
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
O

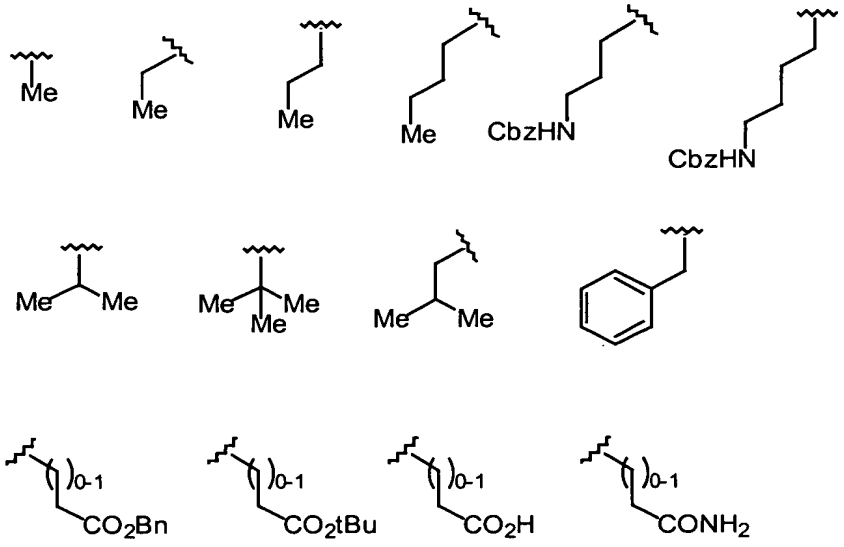


wherein:

Y^{11} is selected from H, COOH, COOEt, OMe, Ph, OPh, NHMe, NHAc, NHPh, $CH(Me)_2$, 1-triazolyl, 1-imidazolyl, and $NHCH_2COOH$;

Y^{12} is selected from H, COOH, COOMe, OMe, F, Cl, or Br;

Y^{13} is selected from the following moieties:



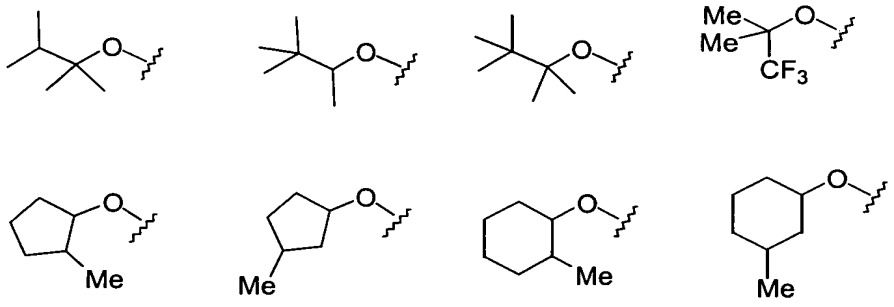
Y^{14} is selected from $MeSO_2$, Ac, Boc, iBoc, Cbz, or Alloc;

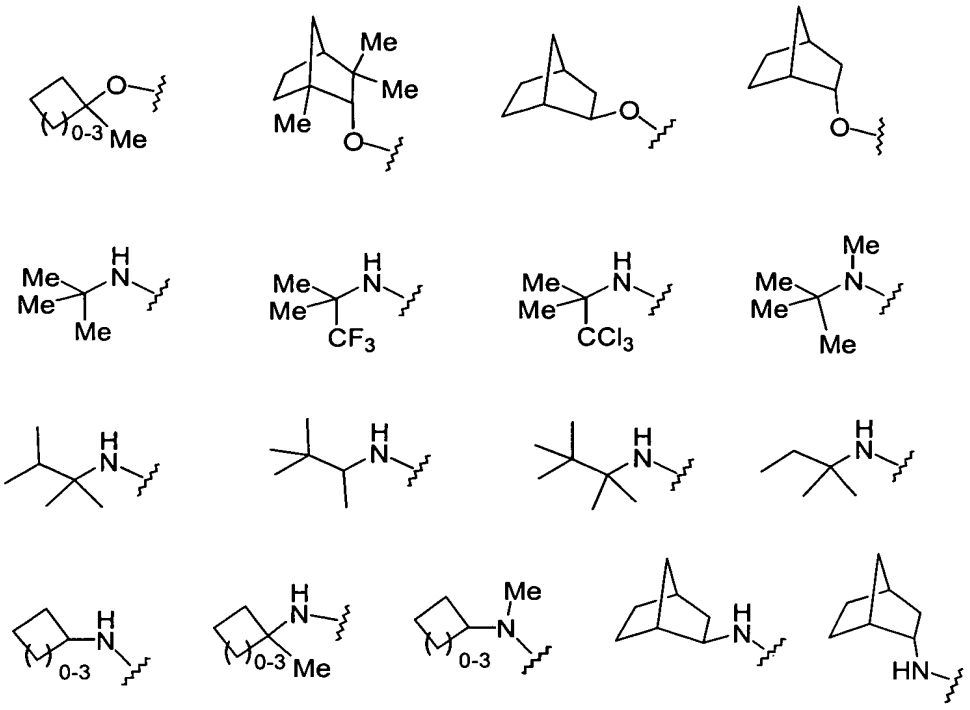
Y^{15} and Y^{16} are independently selected from alkyl, aryl, heteroalkyl, and heteroaryl;

Y^{17} is CF_3, NO_2, $CONH_2$, OH, $COOCH_3$, OCH_3, OC_6H_5, C_6H_5, COC_6H_5, NH_2, or COOH; and

Y^{18} is $COOCH_3$, NO_2, $N(CH_3)_2$, F, OCH_3, CH_2COOH, COOH, SO_2NH_2, or $NHCOCH_3$.

13. (original) The compound of claim 12, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of:




O
0-3
Me
Me
Me
Me
O
O
O
H
N
Me
Me
Me
H
N
Me
Me
CF3
H
N
Me
Me
CCl3
Me
N
Me
Me
Me
H
N
H
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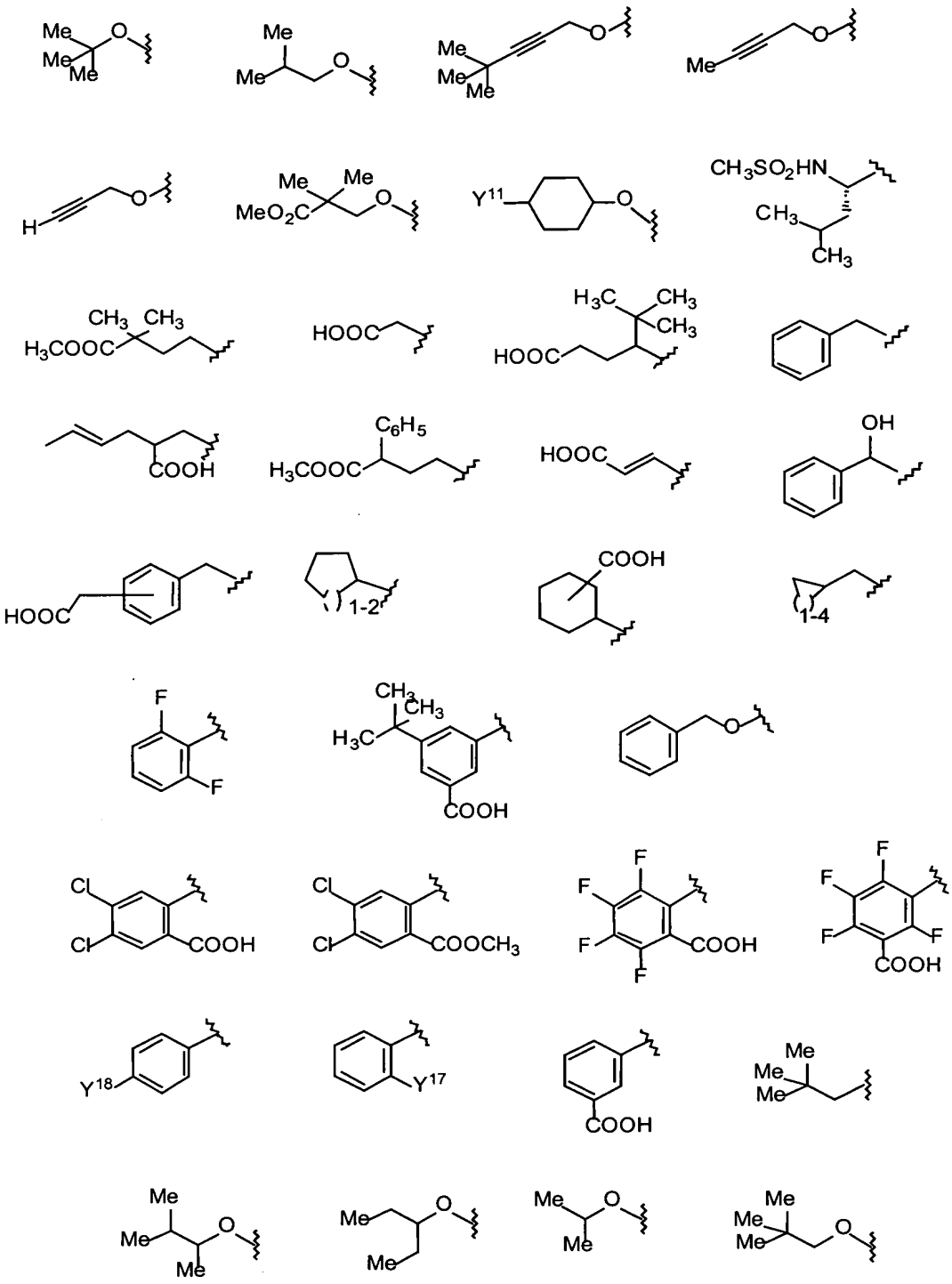
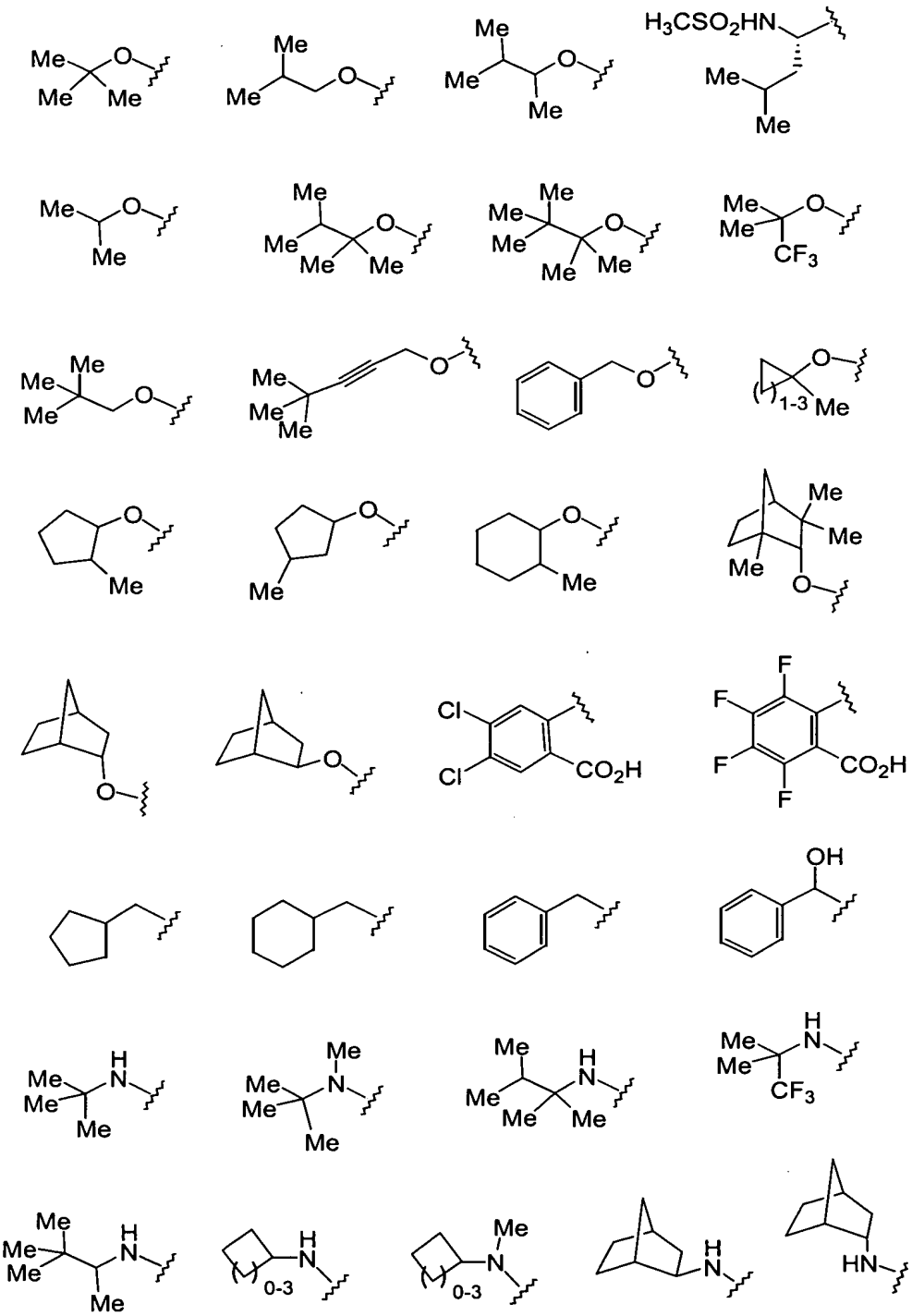
Me
Me
N
0-3
H
N
H
N



wherein:
Y^{17} = CF_3, NO_2, $CONH_2$, OH, NH_2, or COOH;
Y^{18}= F, COOH,

14. (original) The compound of claim 13, wherein Y is selected from the group consisting of:

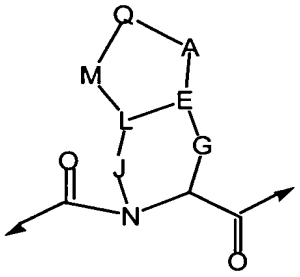


15. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein L and M are absent, and J is directly linked to E.

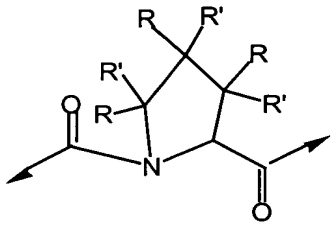
16. (Original) The compound of claim 14, wherein L, J and M are absent and E is directly linked to N.

17. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein G and M are absent.

18. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein the moiety:

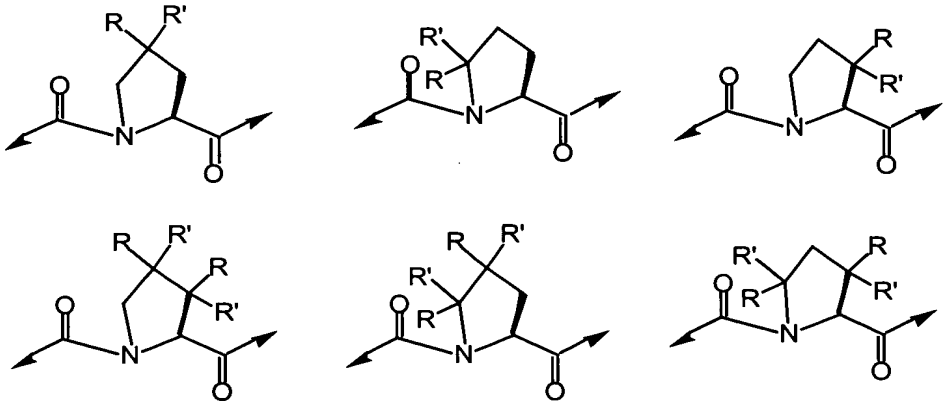


is

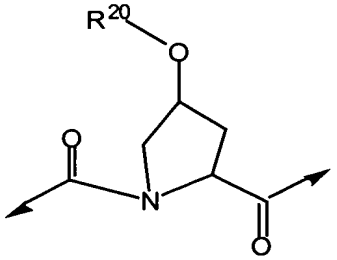


a

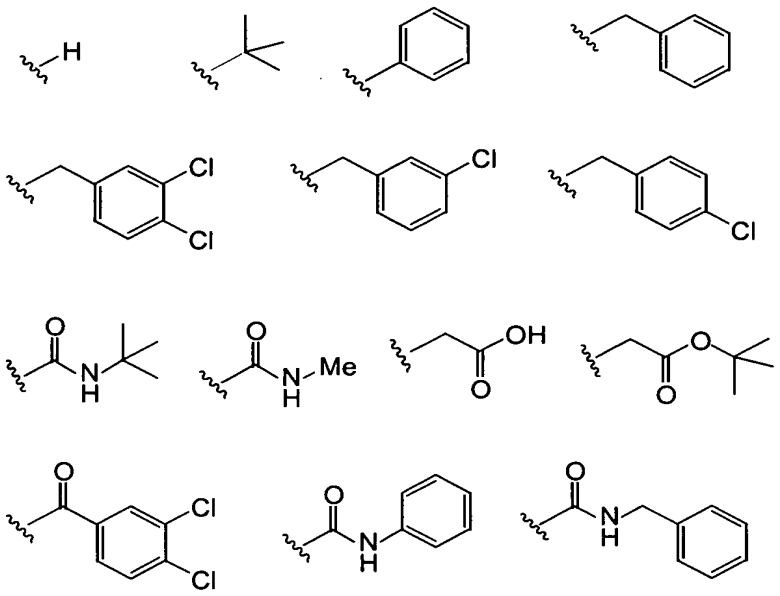
19. (original) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is selected from the following structures:



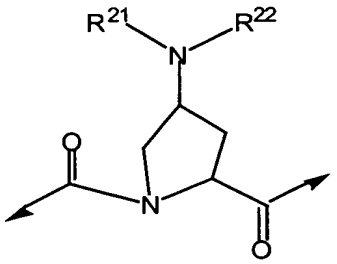
20. (original) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is:



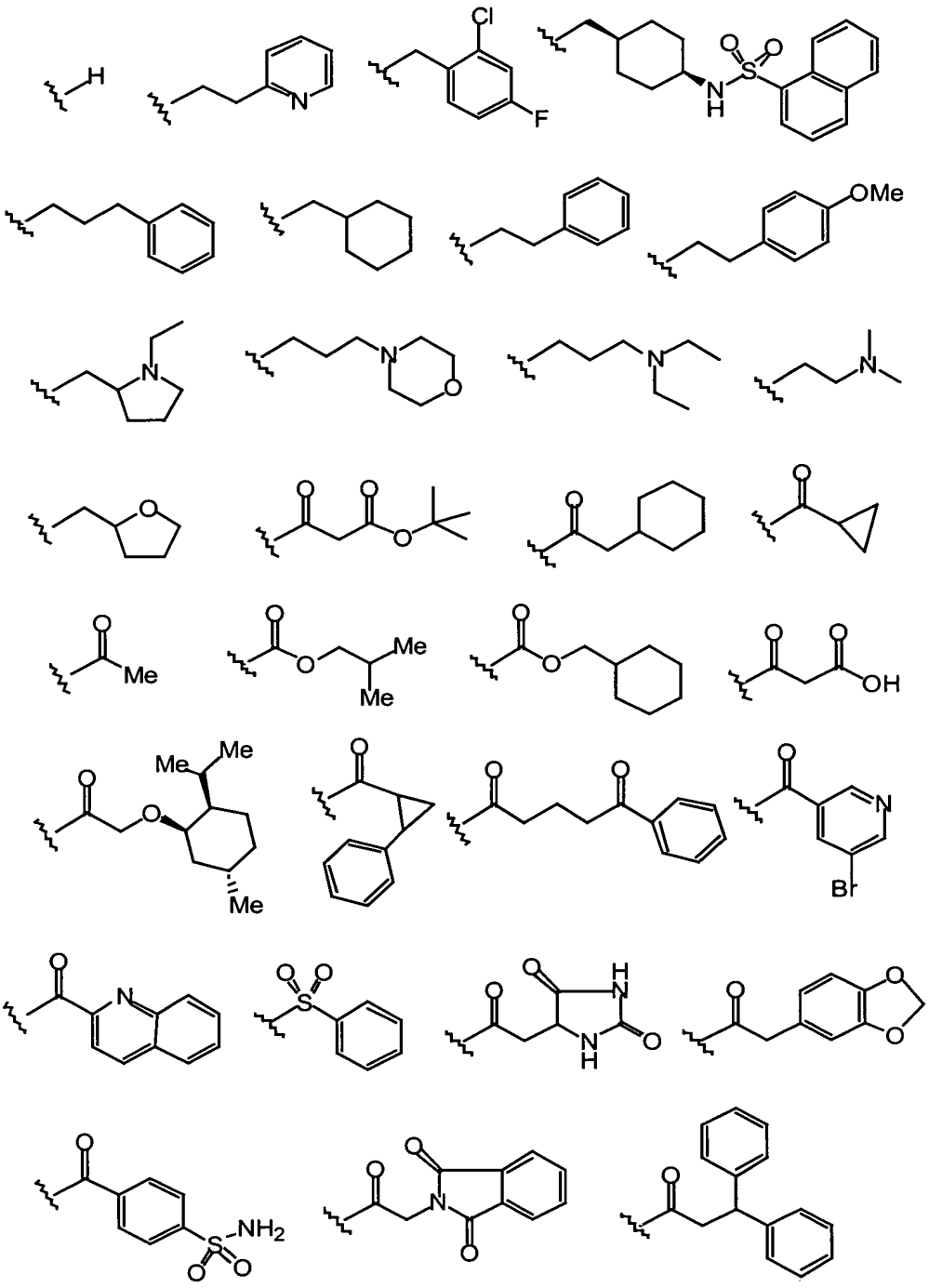
wherein R^{20} is selected from the following structures:



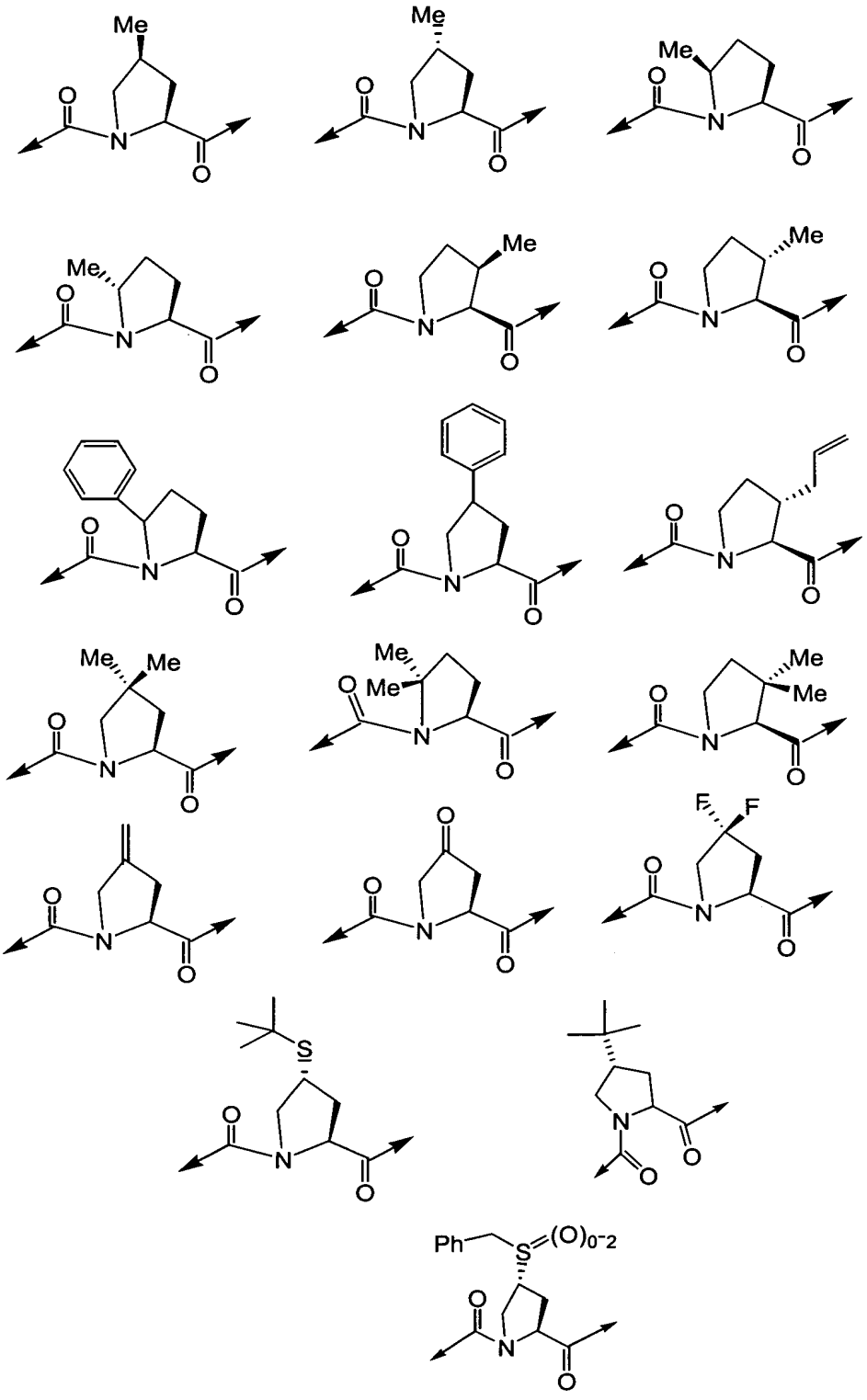
21. (original) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is:



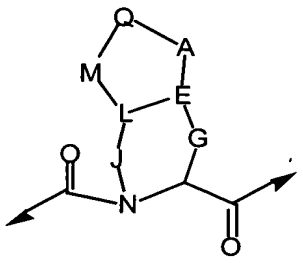
wherein R^{21} and R^{22} may be the same or different and are independently selected from the following structures:



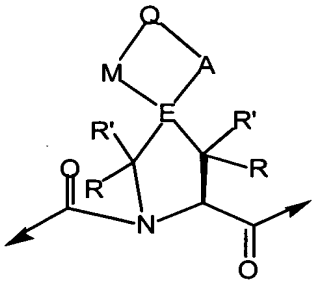
22. (original) The compound of claim 18, wherein structure a is selected from the following structures:


Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
F
F
S
Ph
S
(O)0-2
O
N

23. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein:



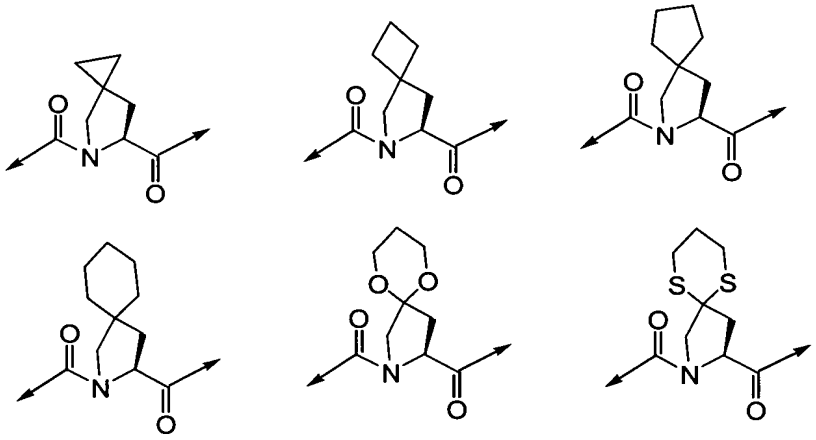
is

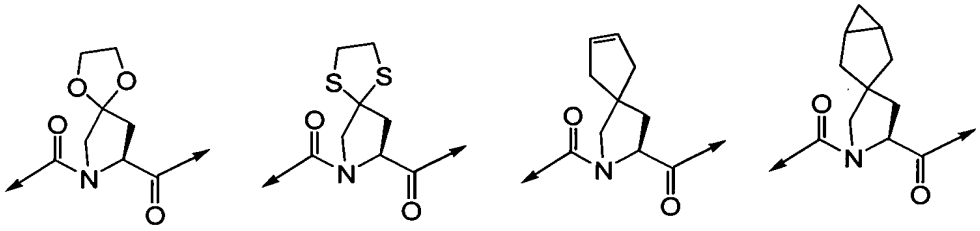


b

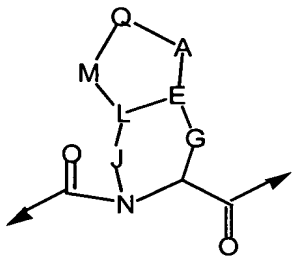
wherein Q may be present or absent, and if Q is absent, M is directly linked to A.

24. (original) The compound of claim 23, wherein structure b is selected from the following structures:

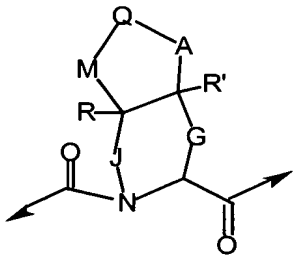




25. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein:



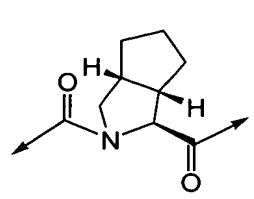
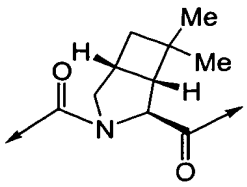
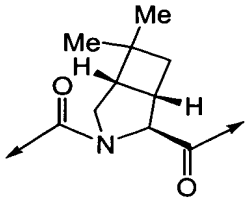
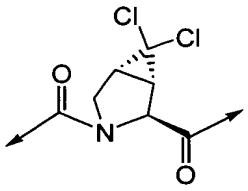
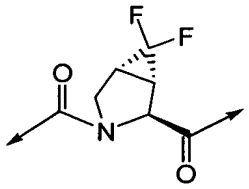
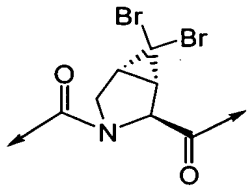
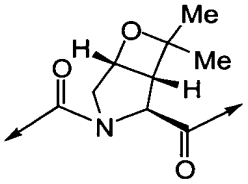
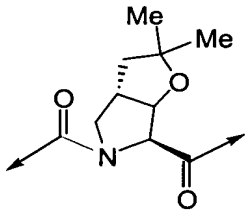
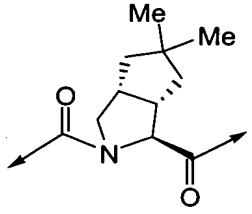
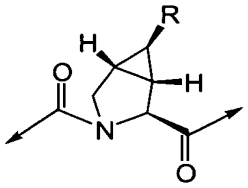
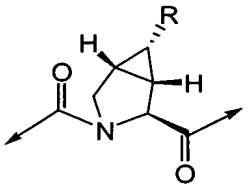
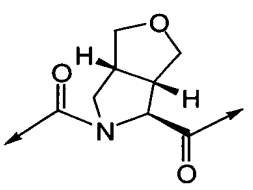
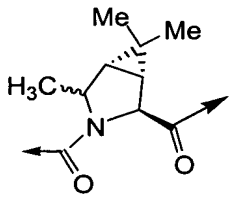
is

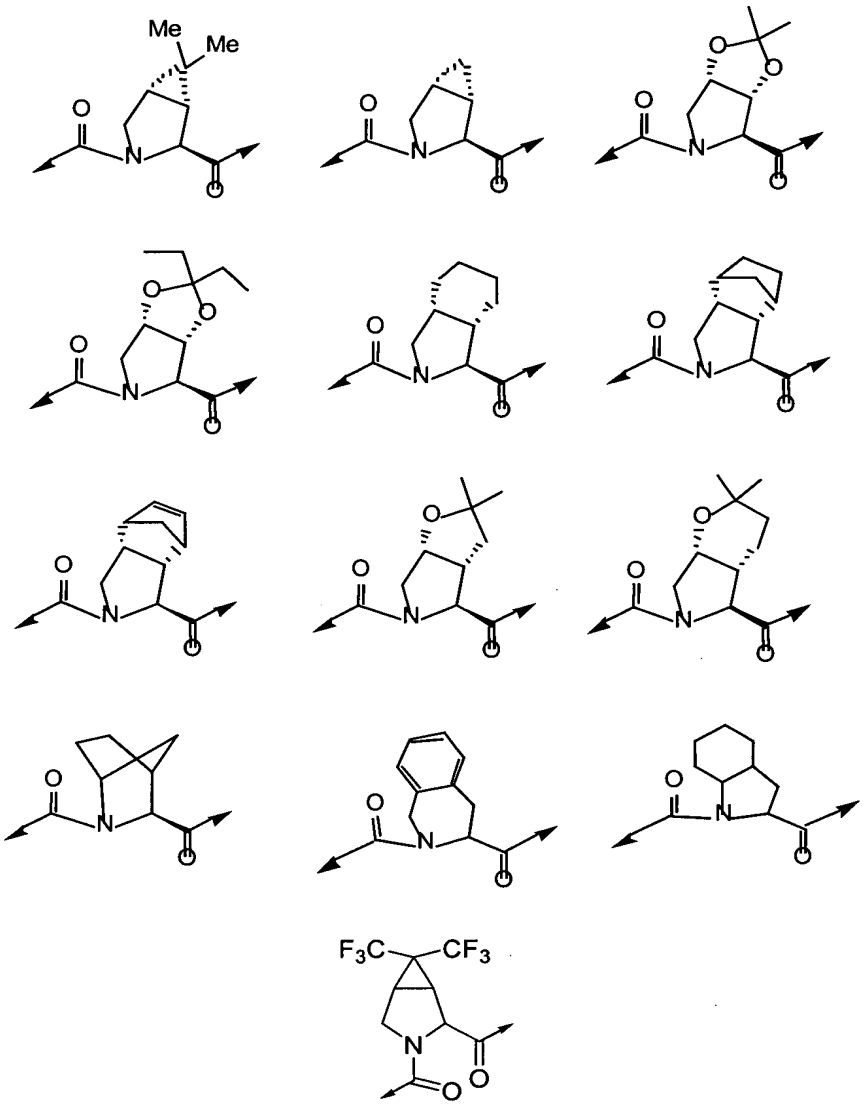


c

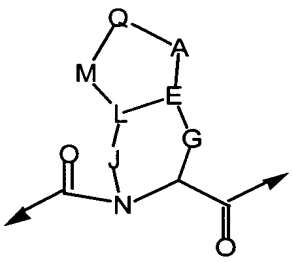
wherein G and J are independently selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, and $(CRR')_p$; A and M are independently selected from the group consisting of O, S, SO_2, NR, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, $(CHR\text{-}CHR')_p$, and $(CRR')_p$; and Q is CH_2, CHR, CRR', NH, NR, O, S, SO_2, NR, $(CH_2)_p$, $(CHR)_p$, and $(CRR')_p$.

26. (original) The compound of claim 25, wherein structure c is selected from the following structures:

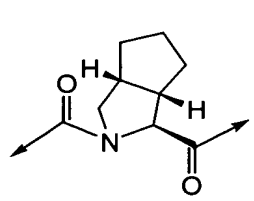
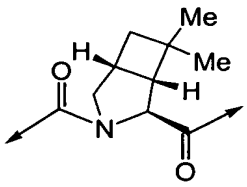
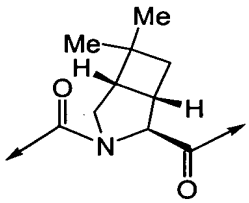
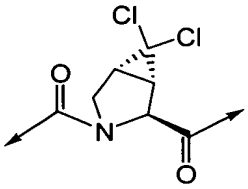
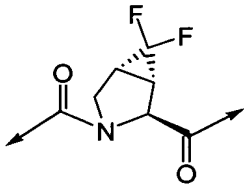
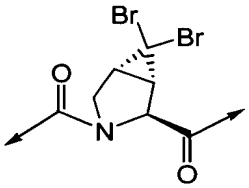
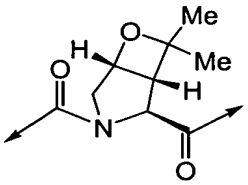
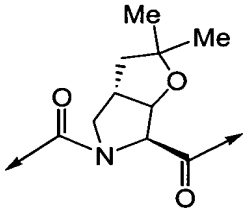
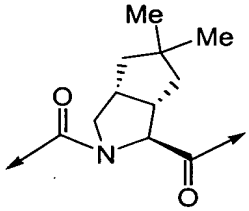
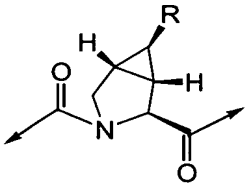
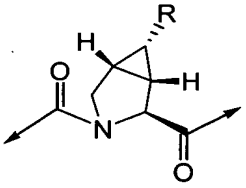
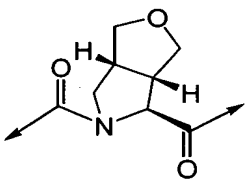
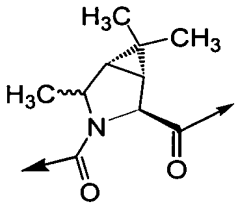














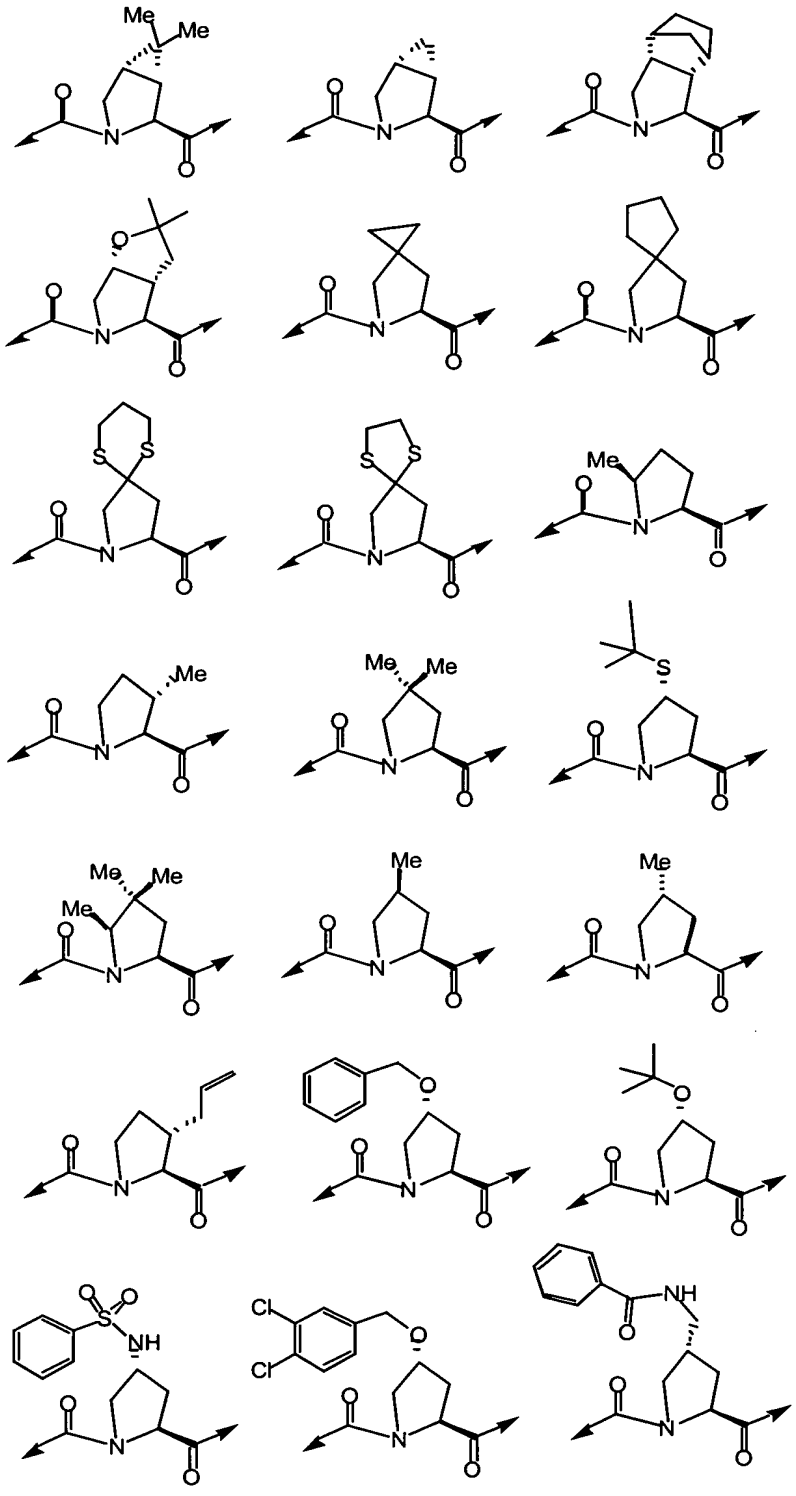


27. (original) The compound of claim 14, wherein:

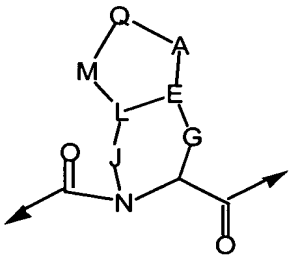


is selected from the following structures:

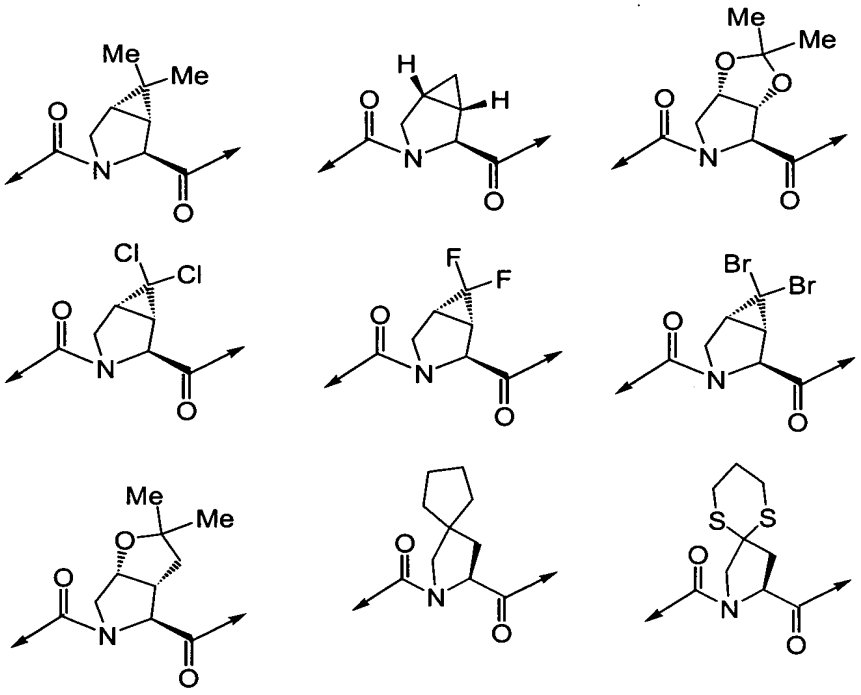














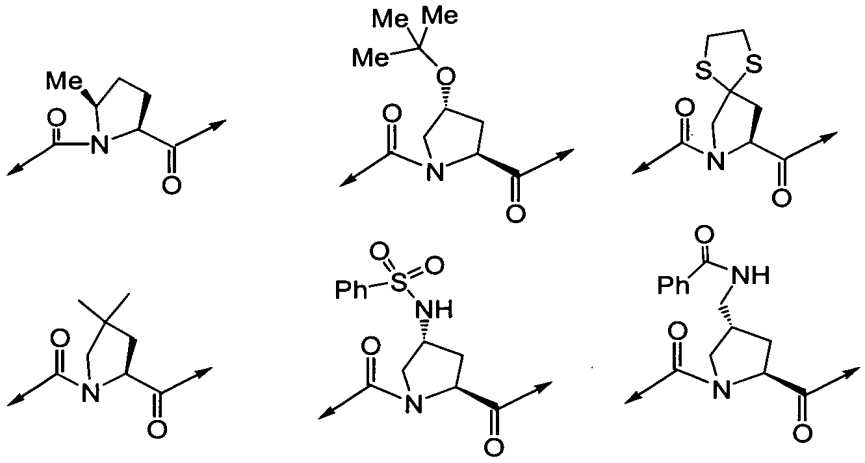

Me
Me
O
N
O
S
S
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
Me
S
O
O
NH
Cl
Cl
O
NH

28. (original) The compound of claim 27, wherein:



is selected from the following structures:





29. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound of claim 1.

30. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 29 suitable for use in treating disorders associated with hepatitis C virus (HCV).

31. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 29 additionally comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 31, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

33. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 32, further containing an interferon.

34. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 33, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is α-interferon or pegylated interferon.

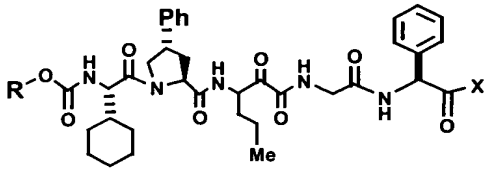
35. (original) A method of treating disorders associated with the HCV, said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition which comprises therapeutically effective amounts of a compound of claim 1.

36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said administration is oral or subcutaneous.

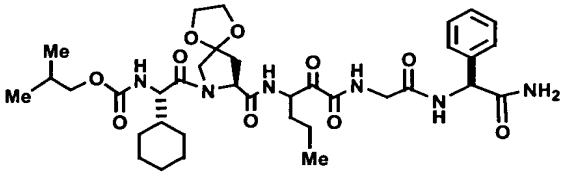
37. (original) The use of a compound of claim 1 for the manufacture of a medicament to treat disorders associated with the HCV.

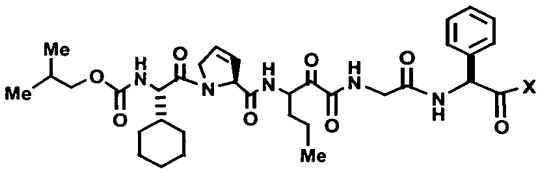
38. (original) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for treating the disorders associated with the HCV, said method comprising bringing into intimate contact a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

39. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being selected from the compounds of structures listed below:

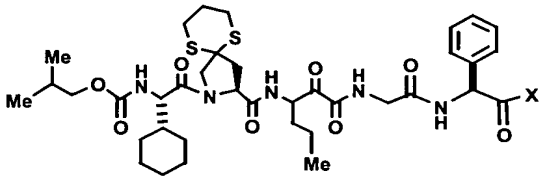


(R = t-butyl, X = NH_2)
(R = Isobutyl, X = NH_2)
(R = t-butyl, X = OH)
(R = Trichloroethyl, X = OH)

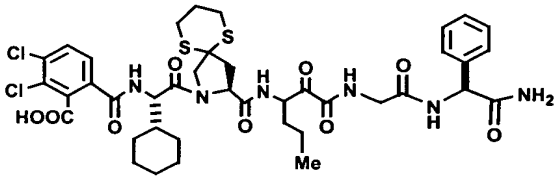


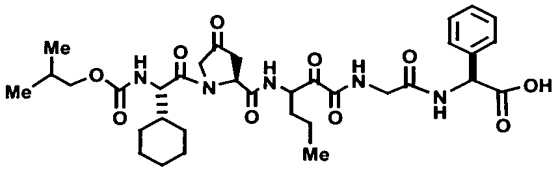


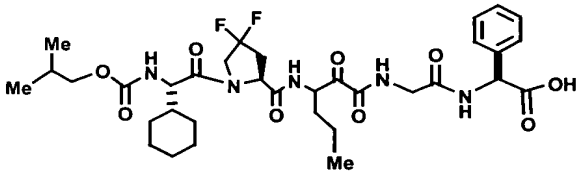
(X = O^tBu)
(X = OH)

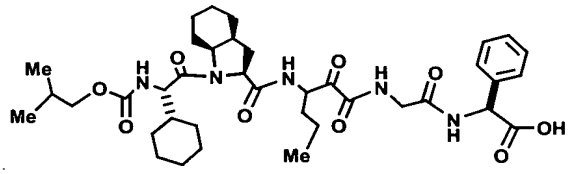


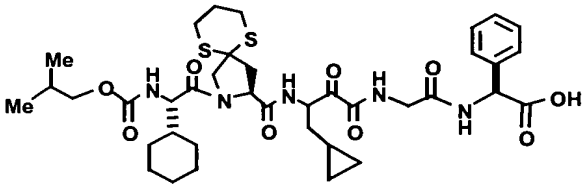
(X = OH)
(X = O^tBu)
(X = NH_2)
(X = NHMe)
(X = NMe_2)

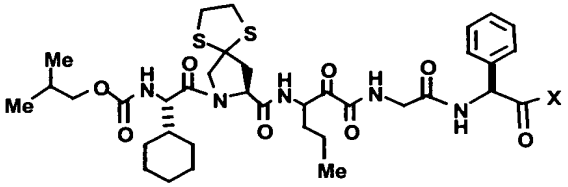




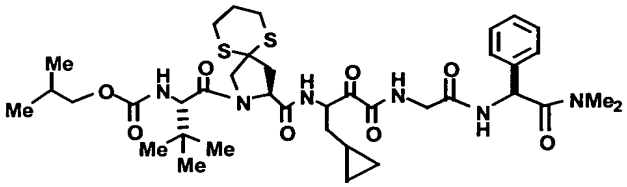


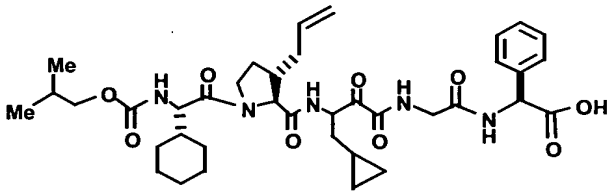


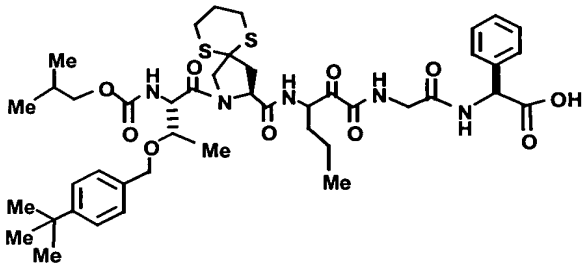


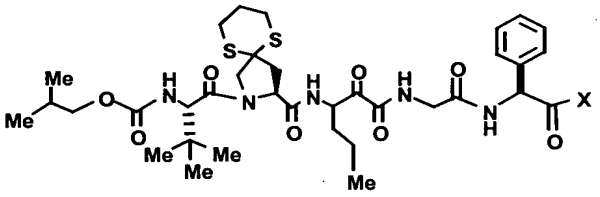


(X = NH_2)
(X = NMe_2)
(X = NHMe)
(X = OH)

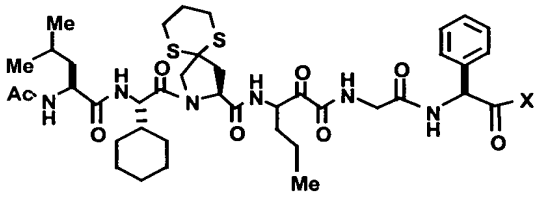




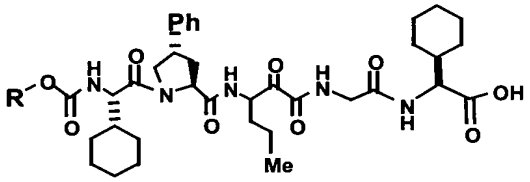




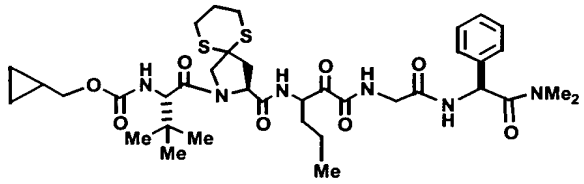
(X = O^tBu)
(X = OH)
(X = NH_2)
(X = NMe_2)

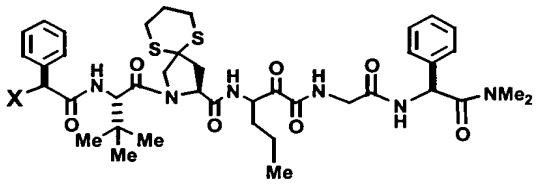


(X = O^tBu)
(X = OH)
(X = NH_2)
(X = NMe_2)
(X = NMeOMe)

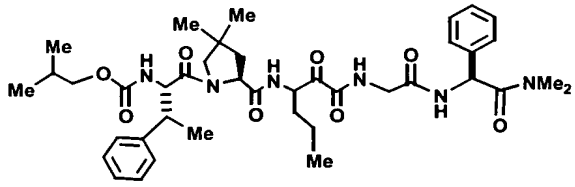


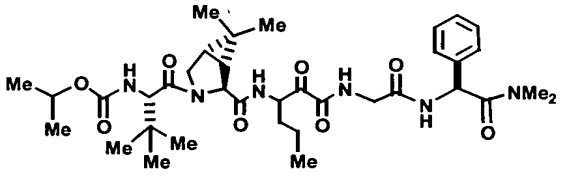
(R = t-butyl)
(R = Isobutyl)

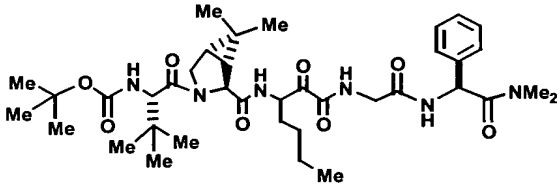


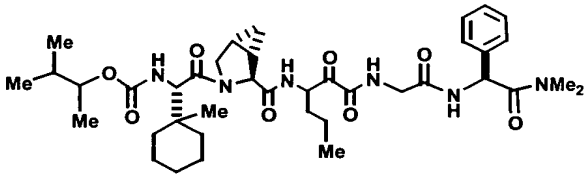


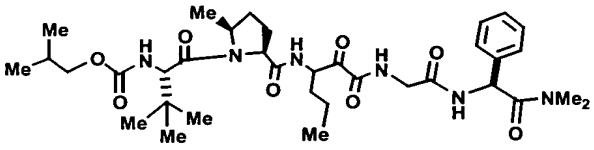
(X = Me, Y = CH_2Me)
(X = OAc, Y = Me)

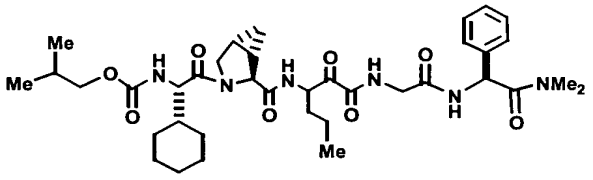


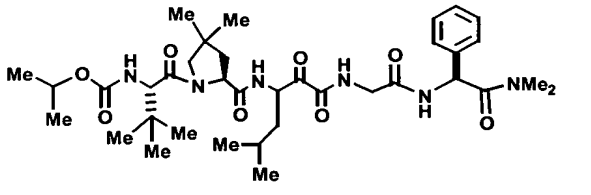


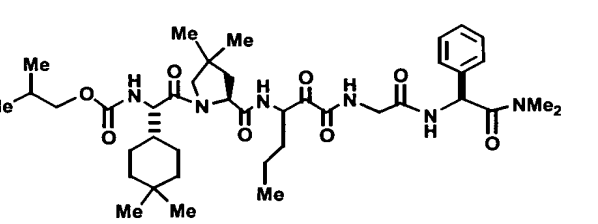


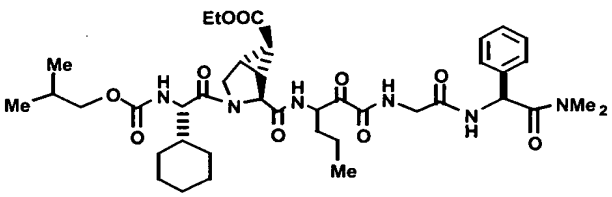


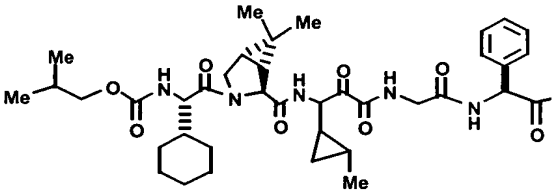


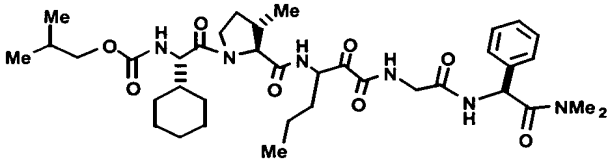


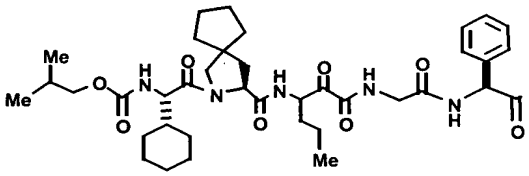


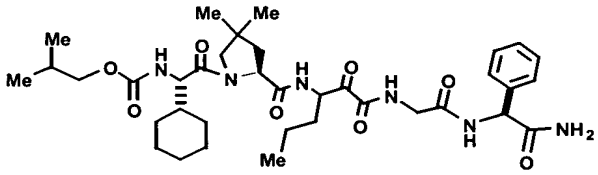


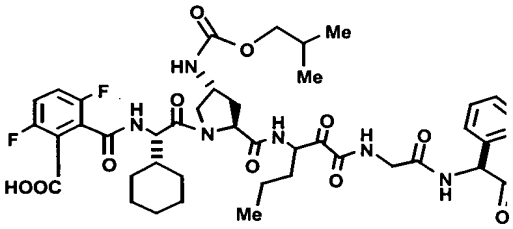


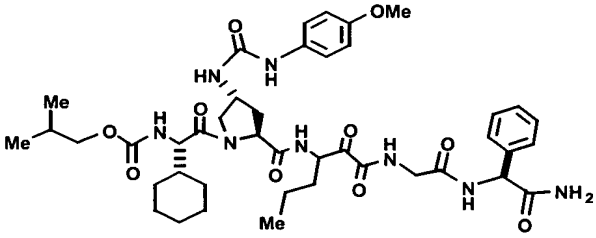


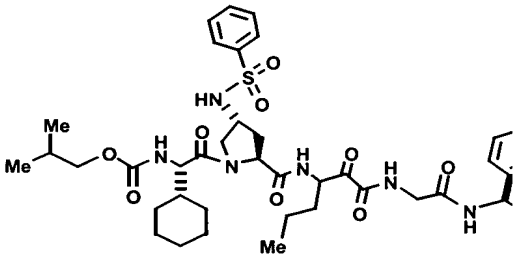


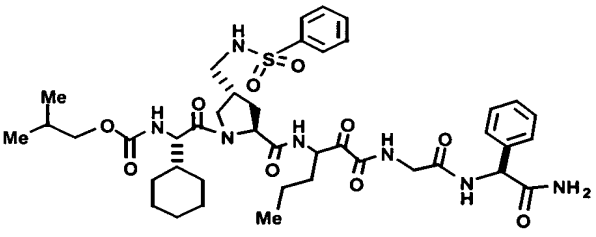


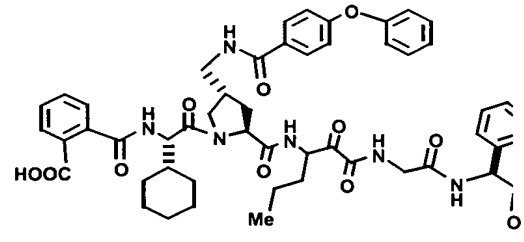


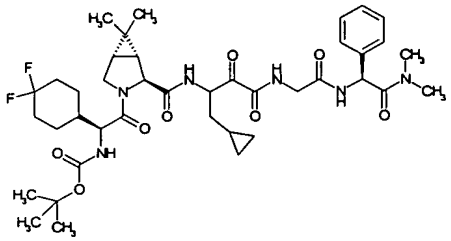


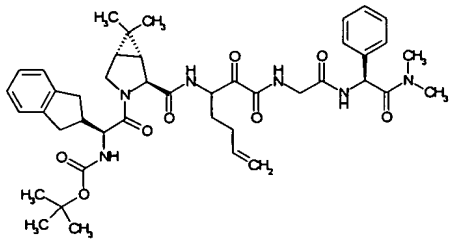


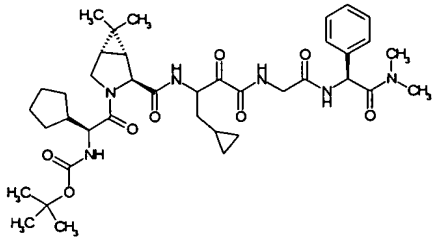


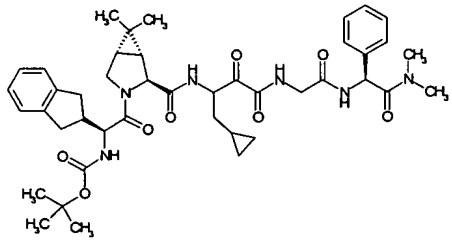


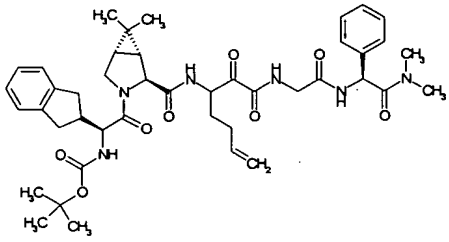


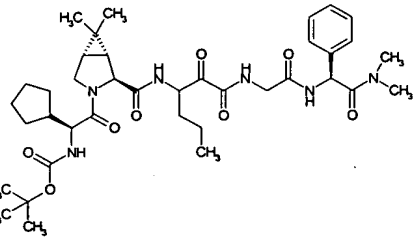


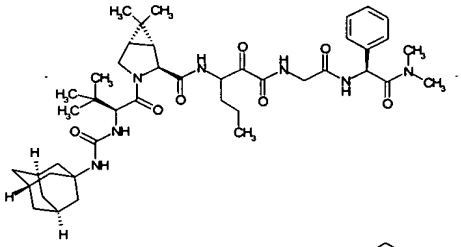


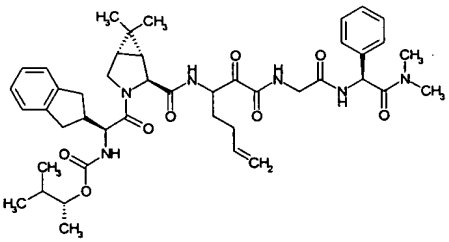


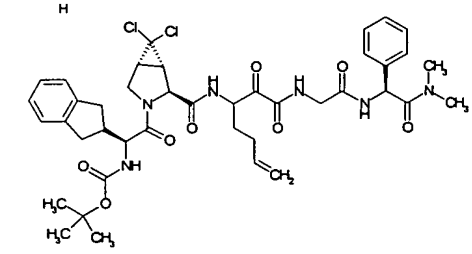


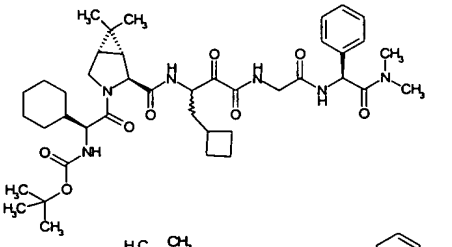


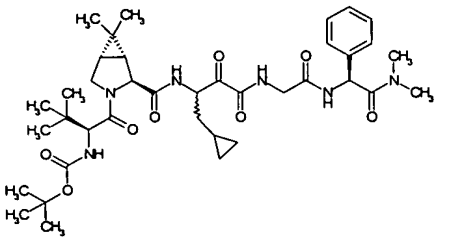


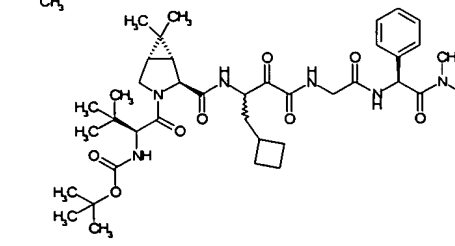


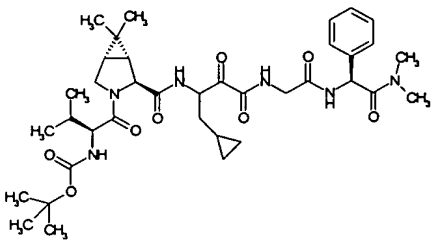


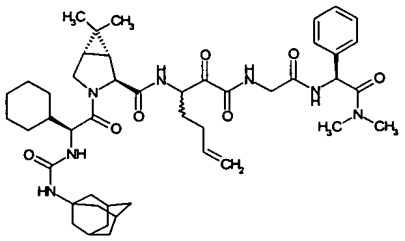


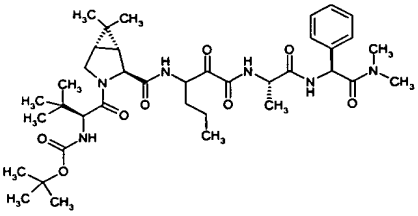


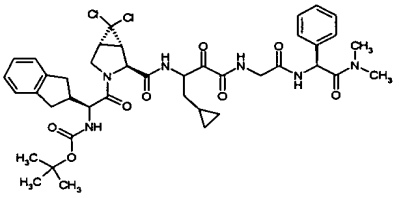


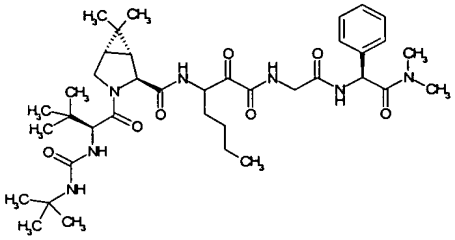


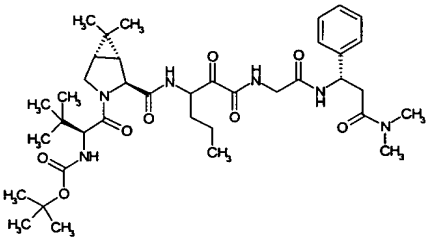


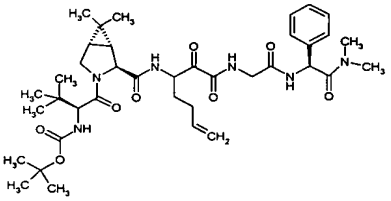


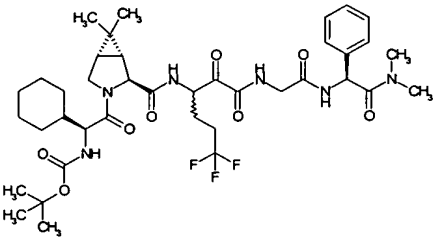


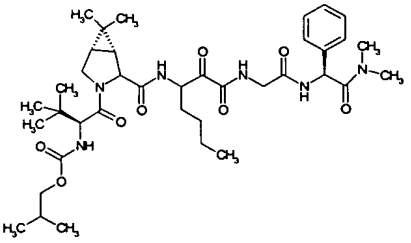


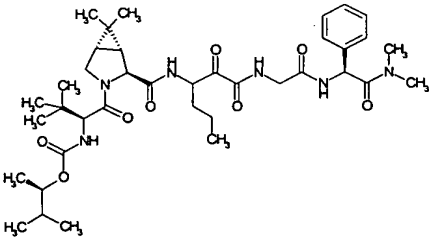


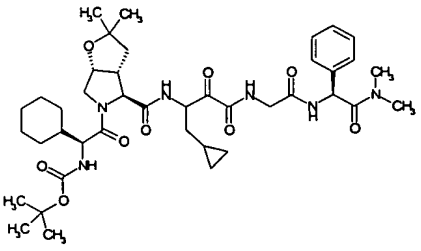


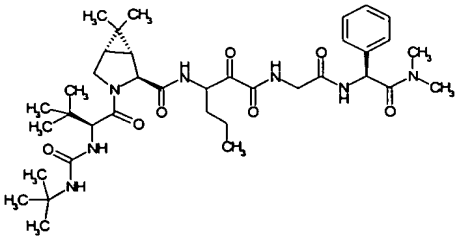


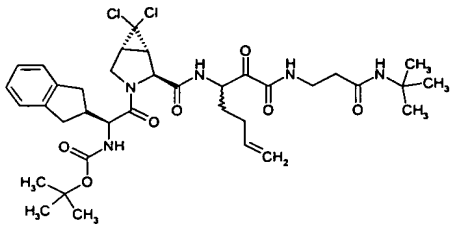


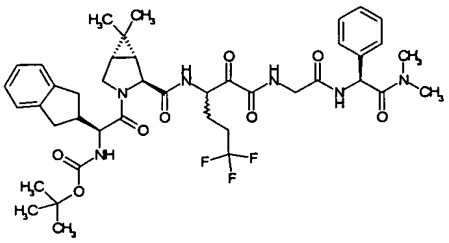


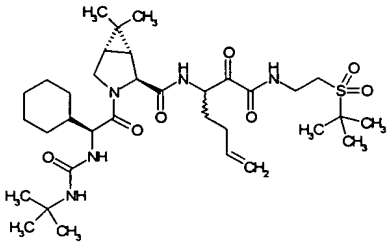


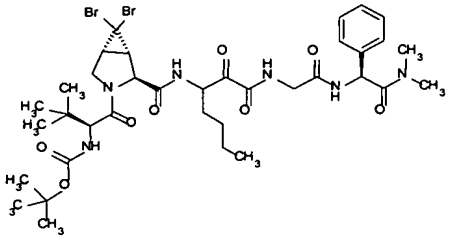


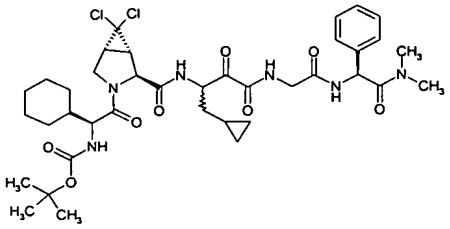


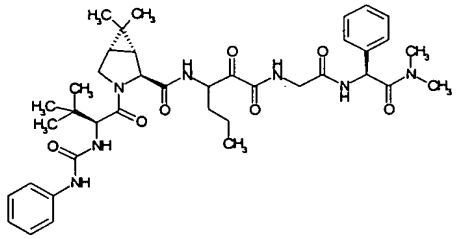


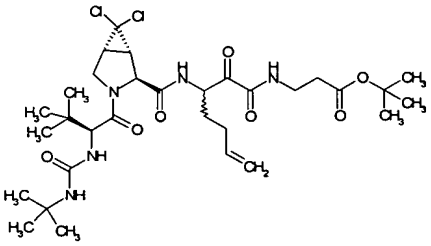


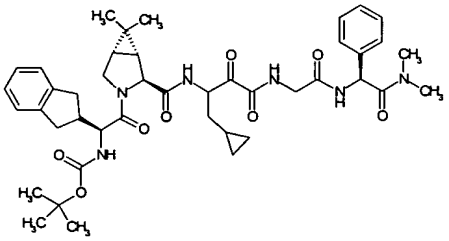


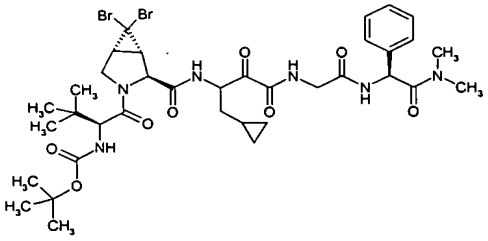


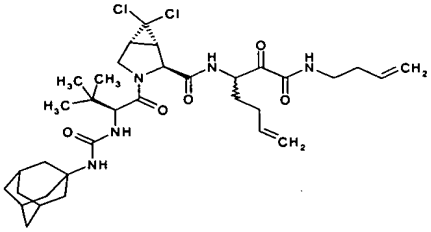


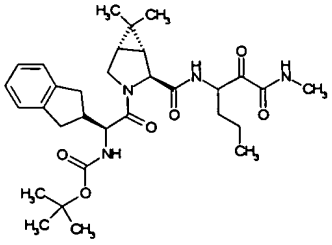


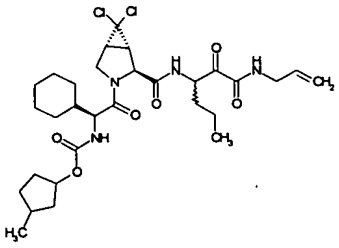


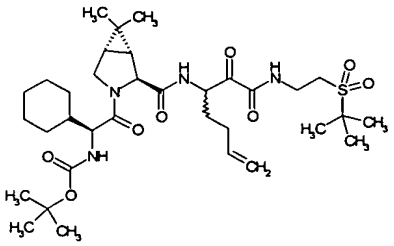


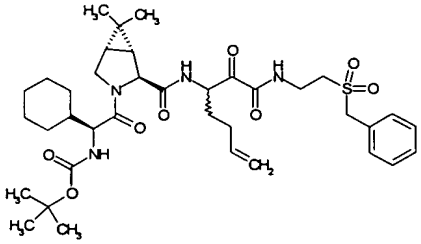


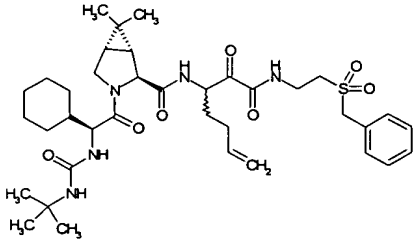


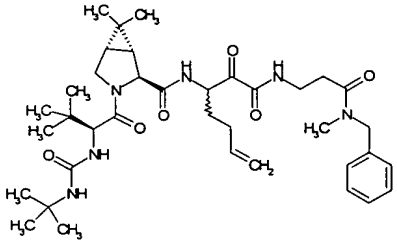


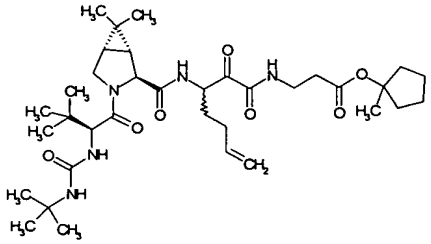


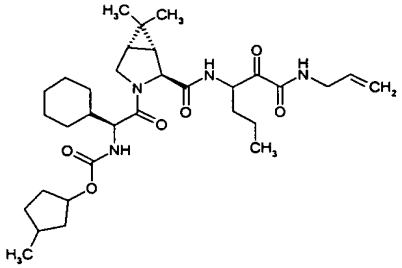


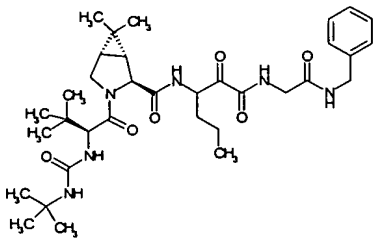


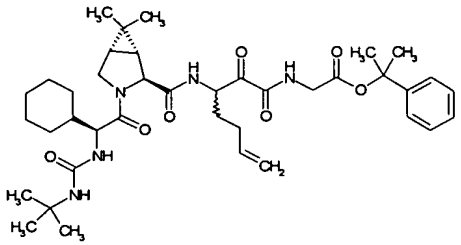


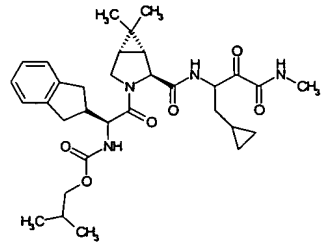


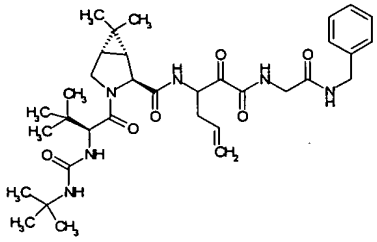


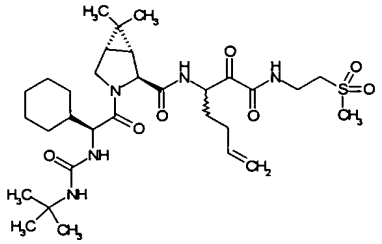


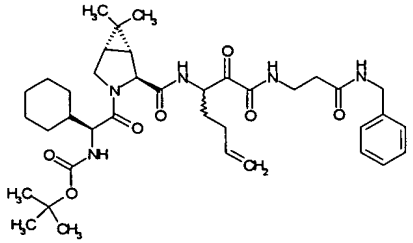


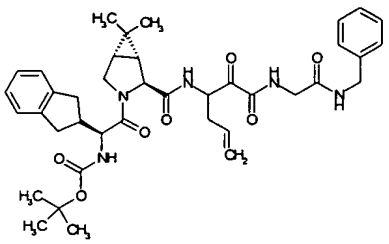


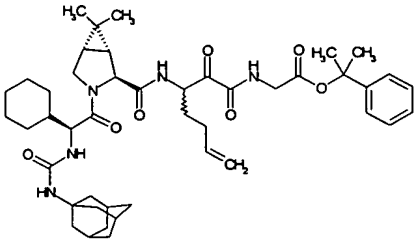


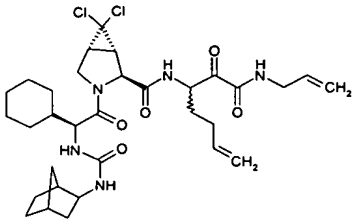


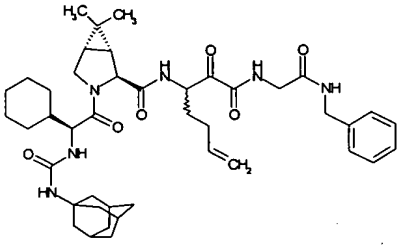


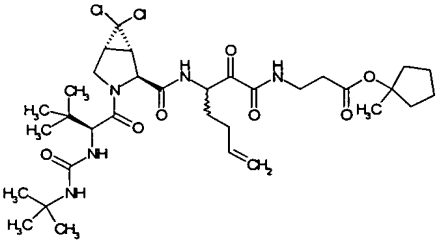


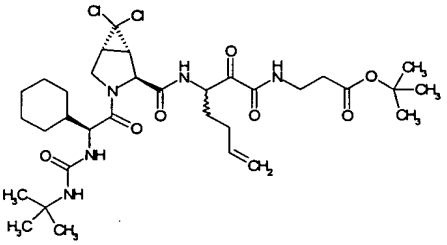


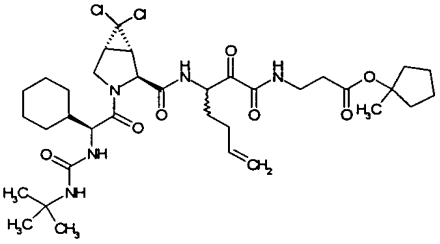


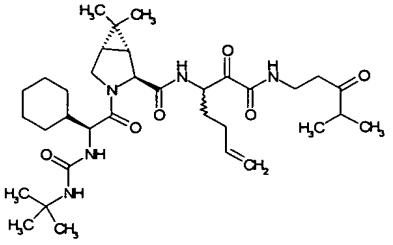


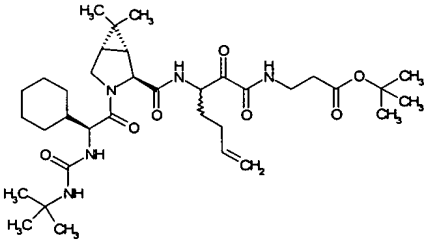


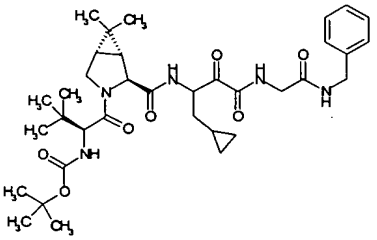


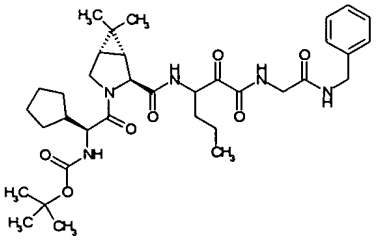


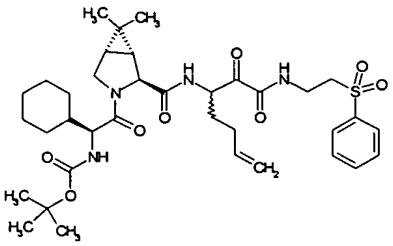


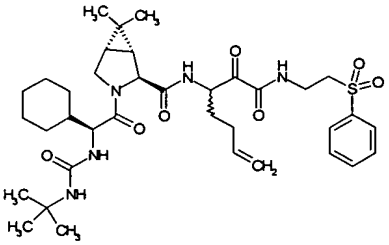


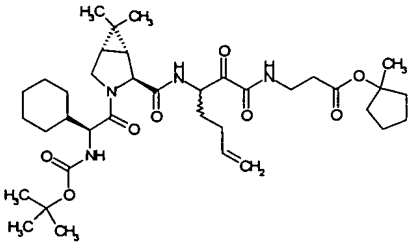


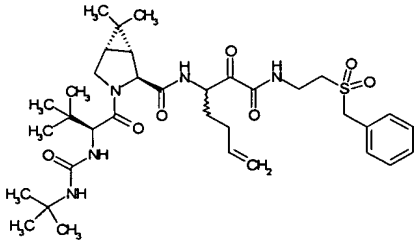


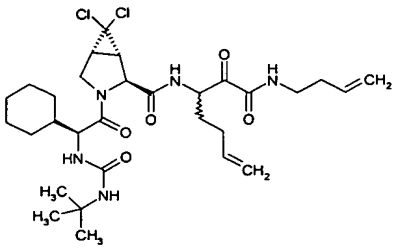


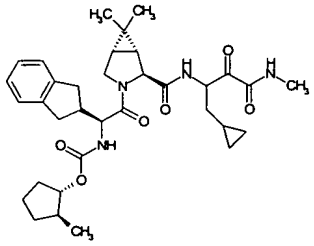


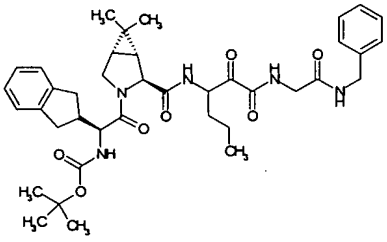


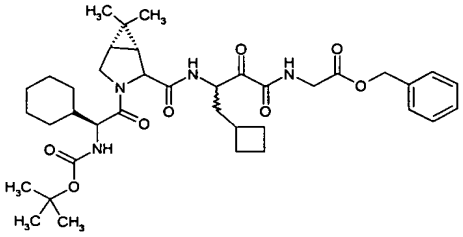


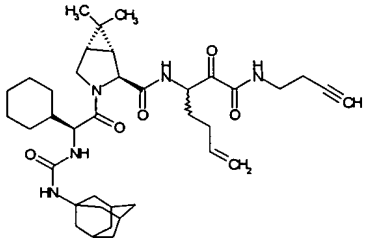


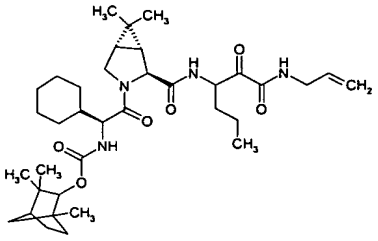


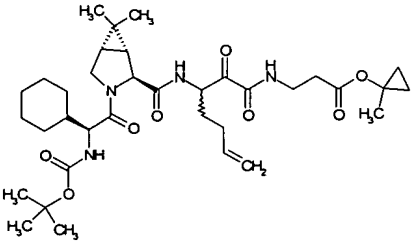


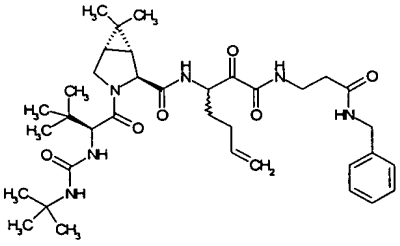


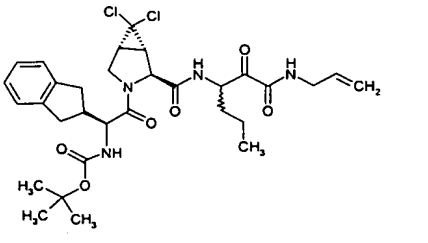


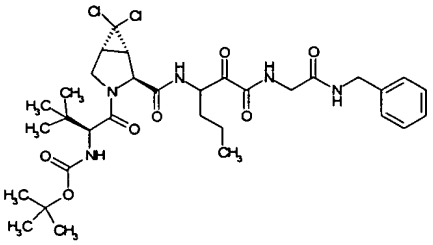


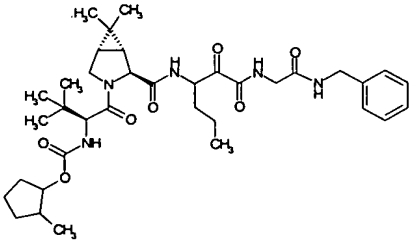


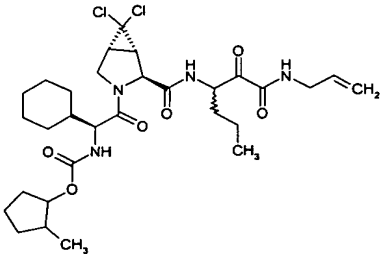


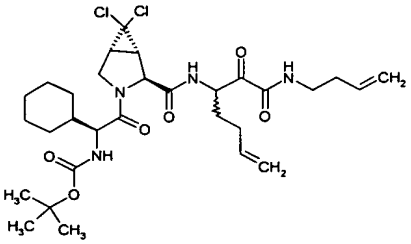


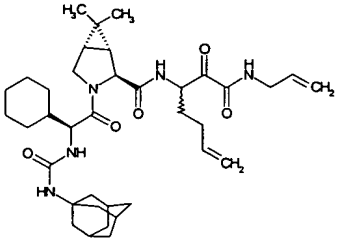


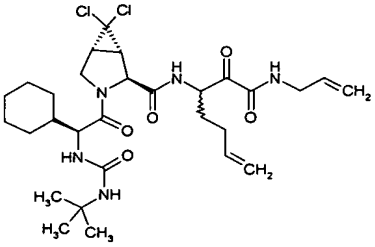


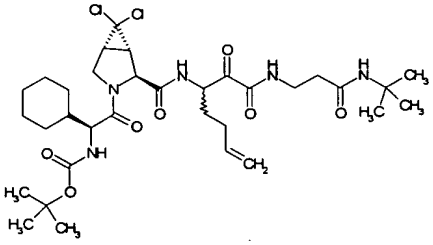


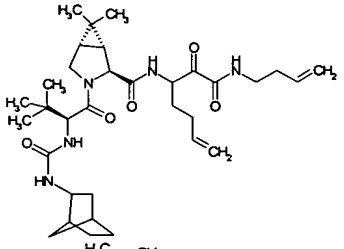


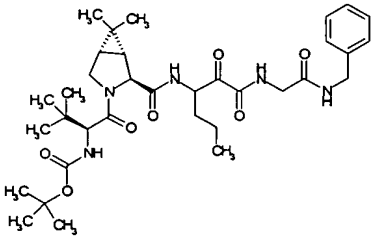


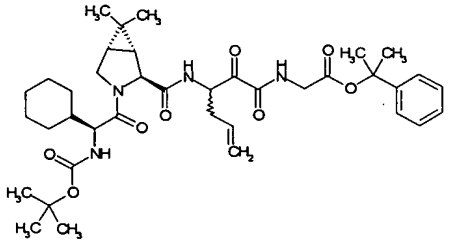


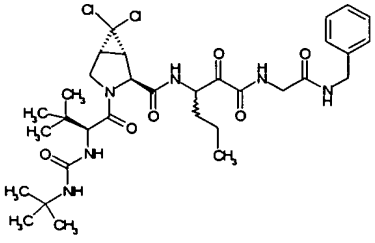


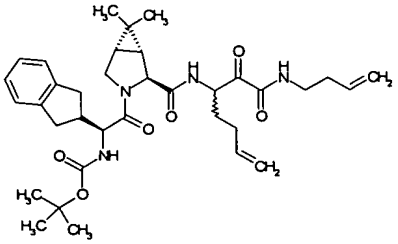


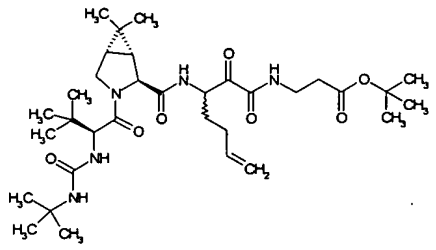


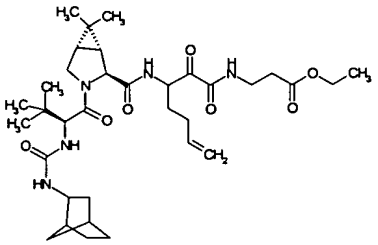


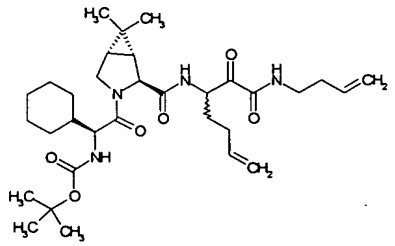


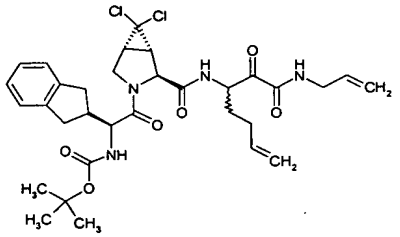


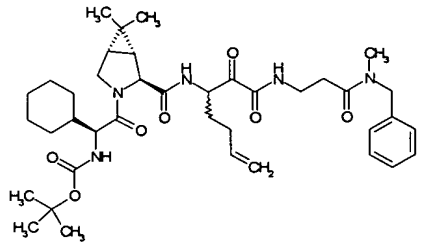


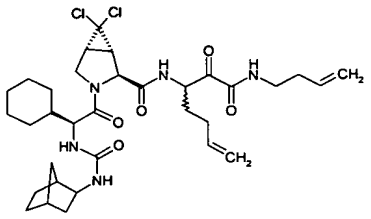


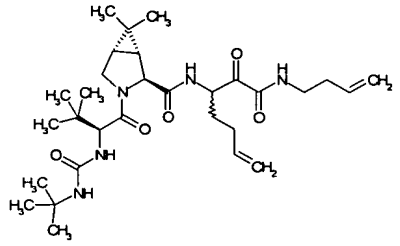


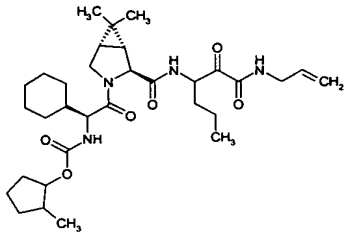


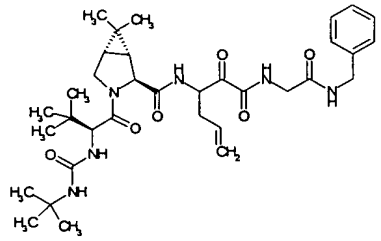


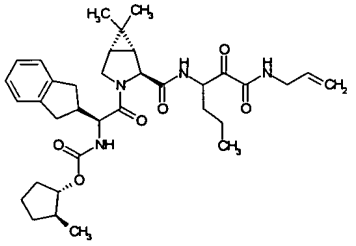


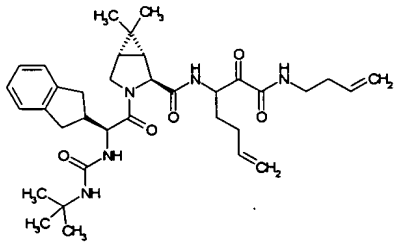


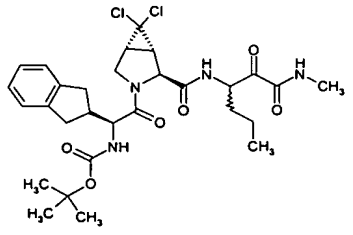


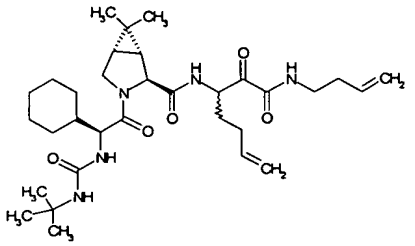


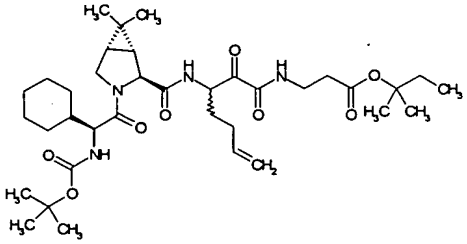


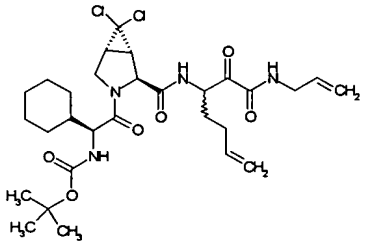


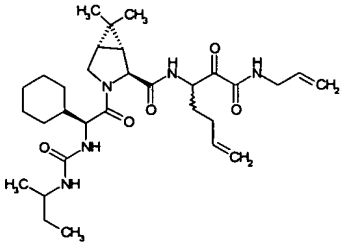


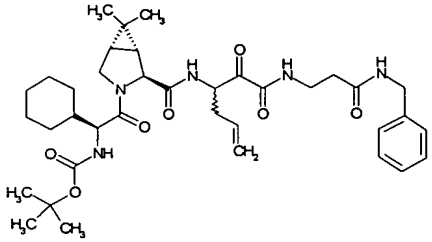


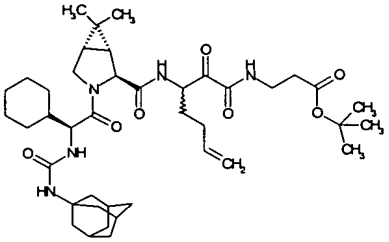


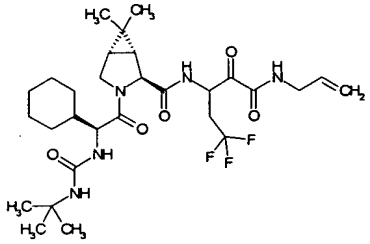


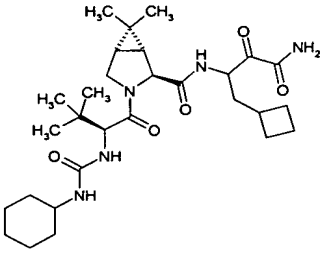


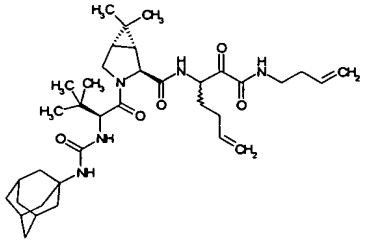


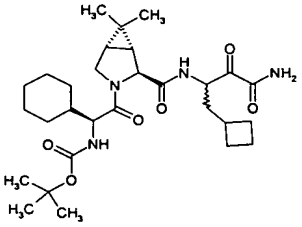


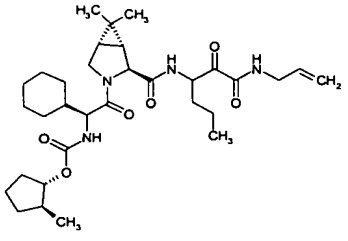


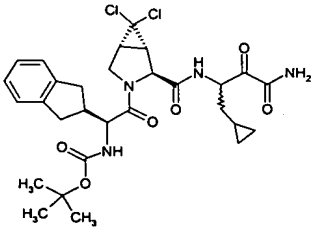


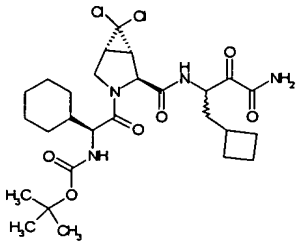


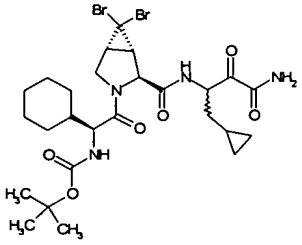


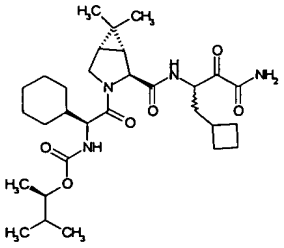


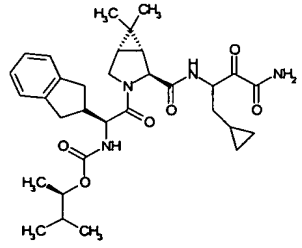


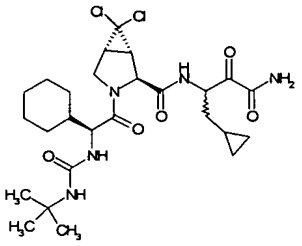


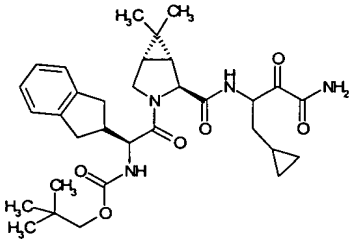


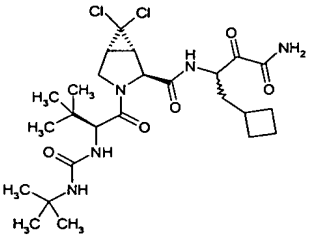


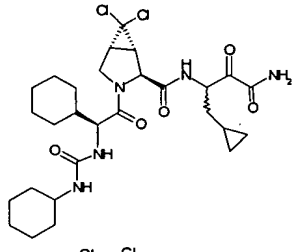


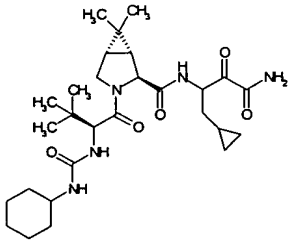


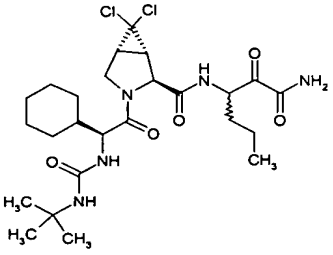


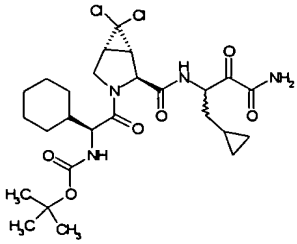


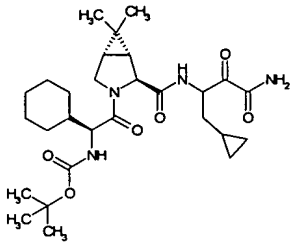


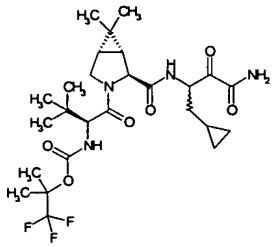


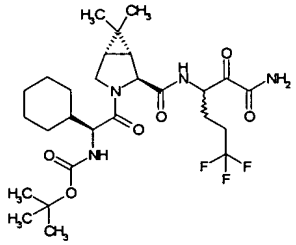


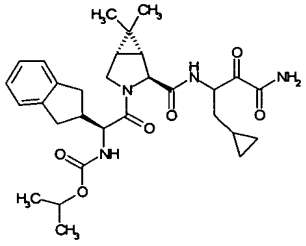


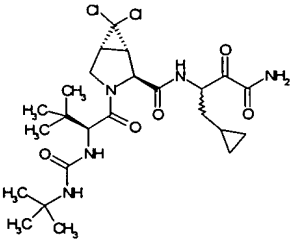


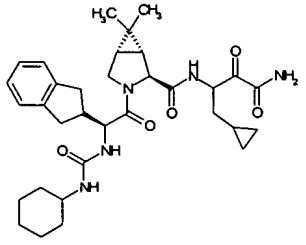


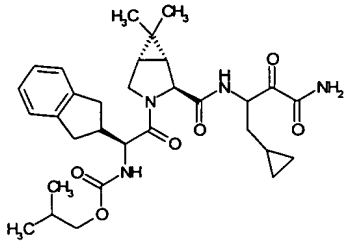


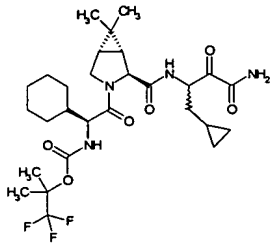


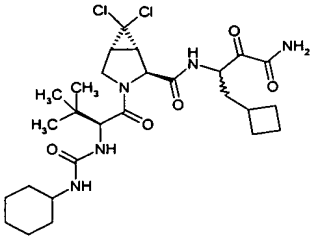


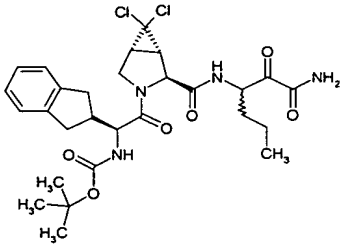


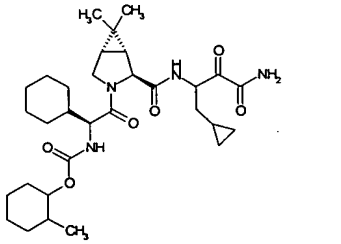


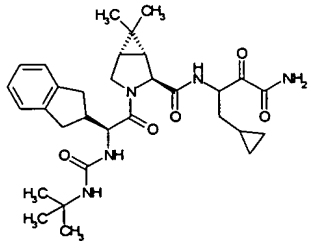


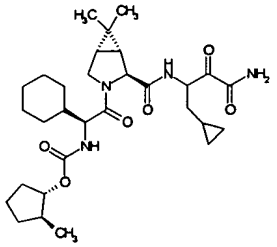


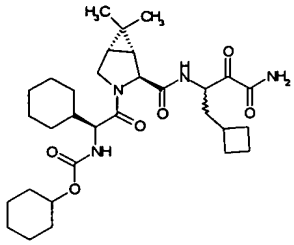


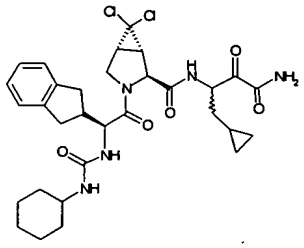


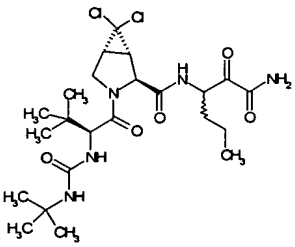


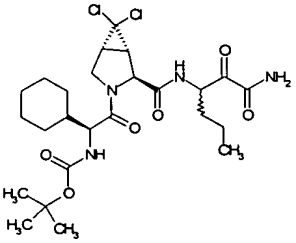


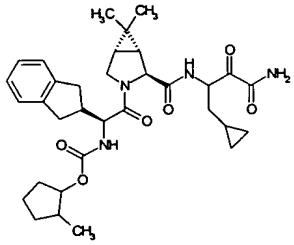


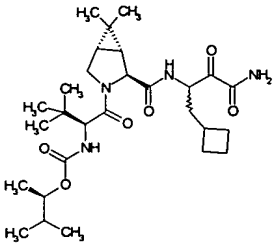


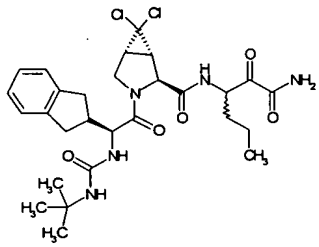


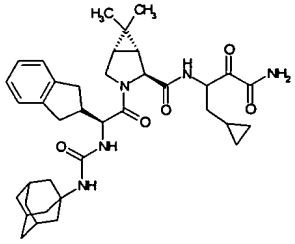


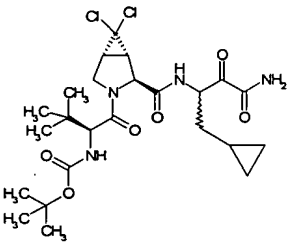


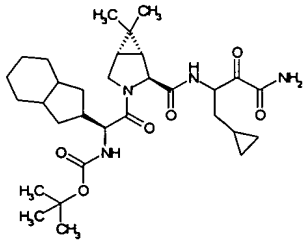


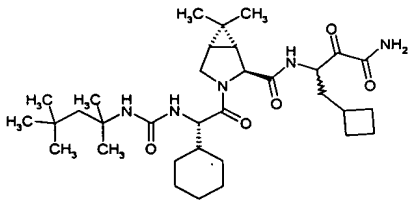


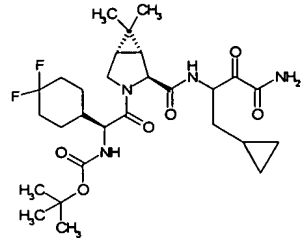


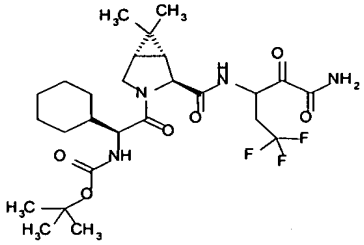


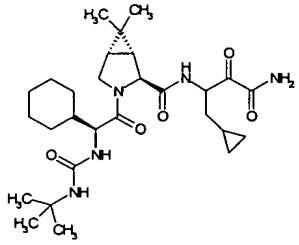


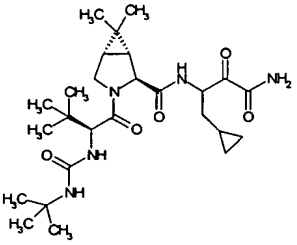


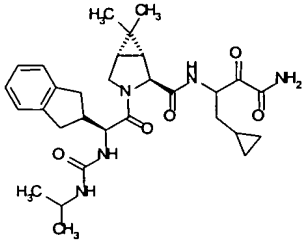


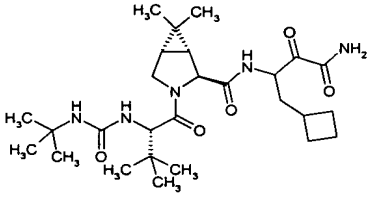


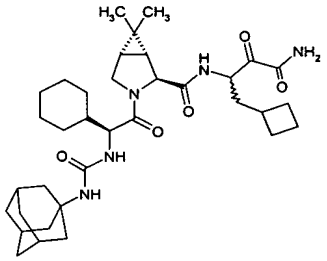


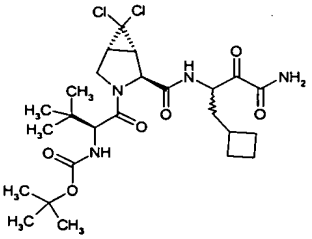


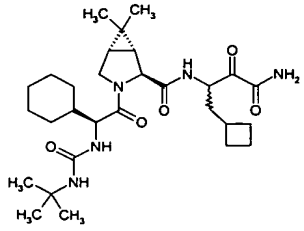


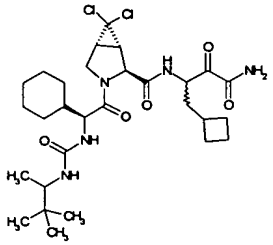


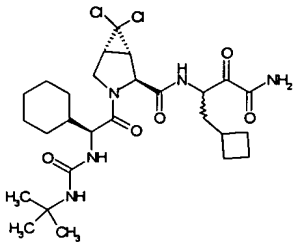


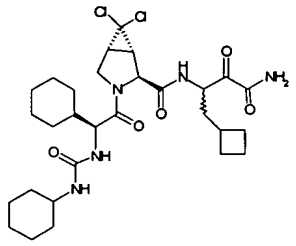


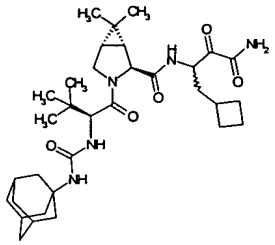


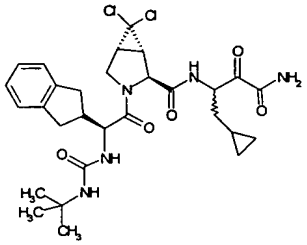


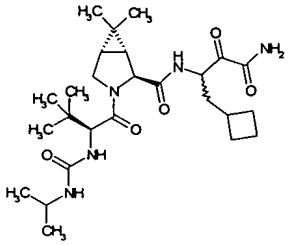


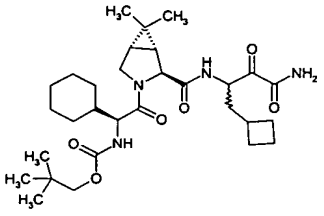


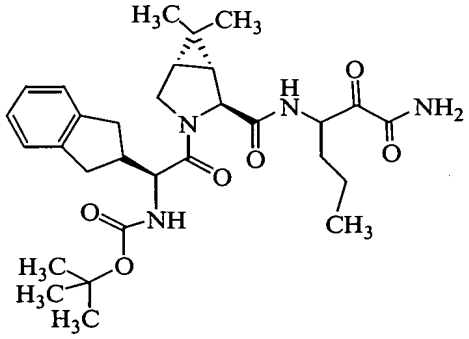


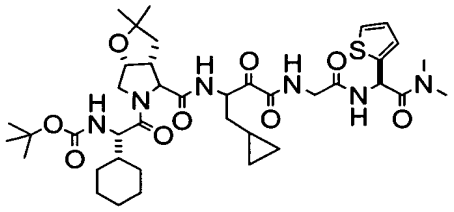


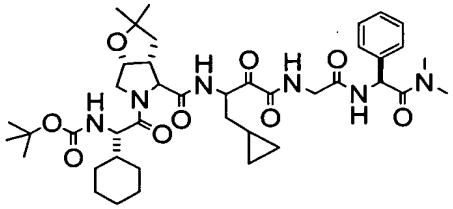


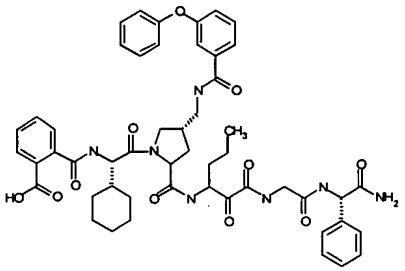


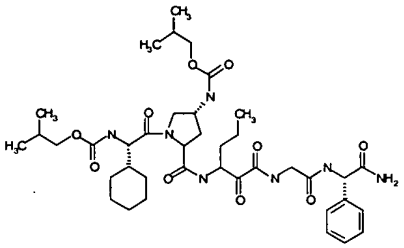


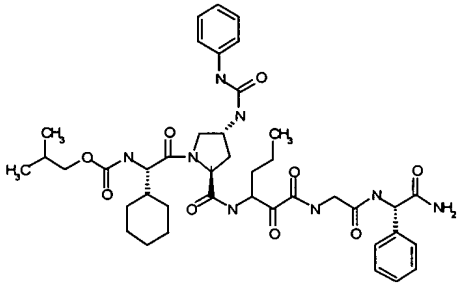


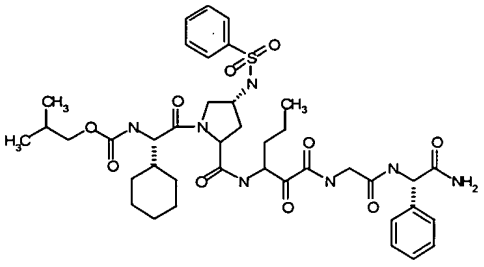


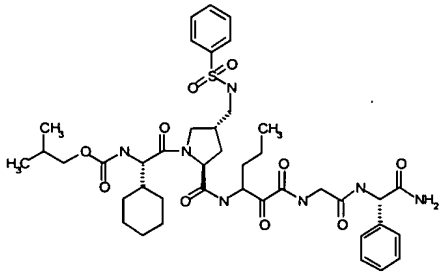


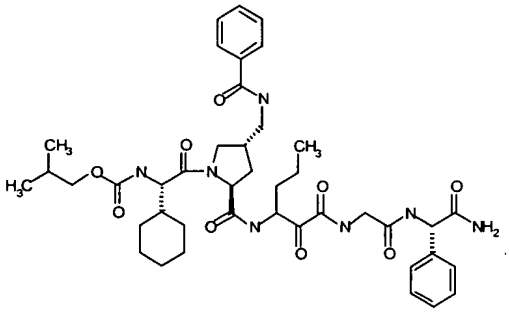


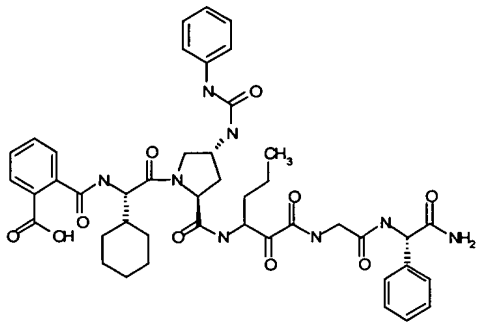


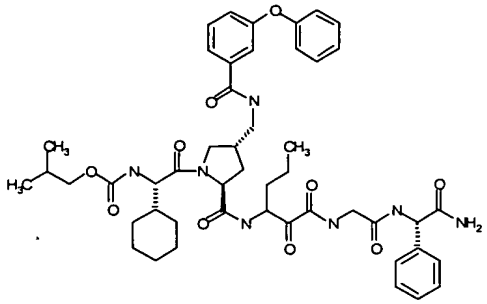


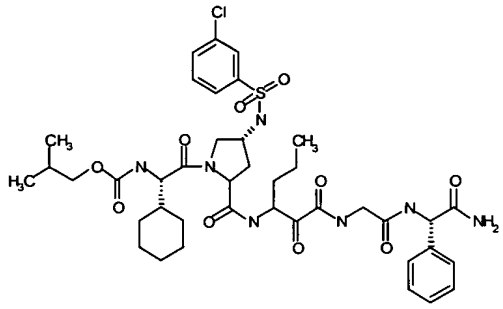


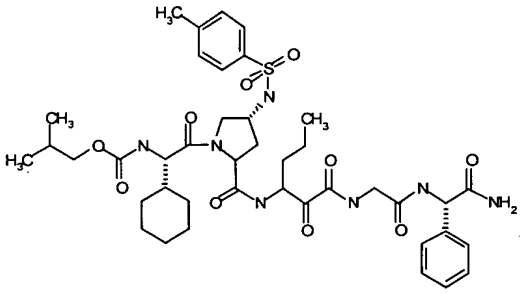


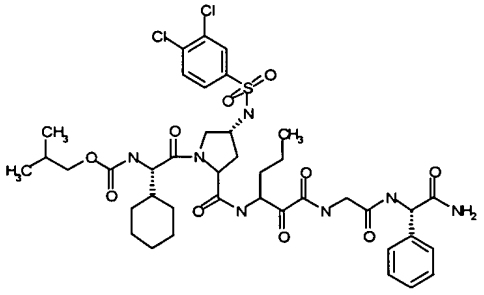


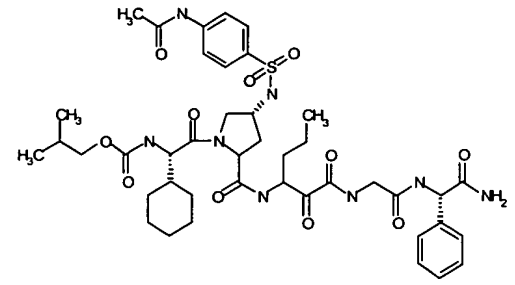


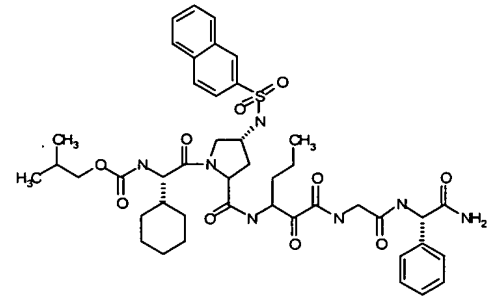


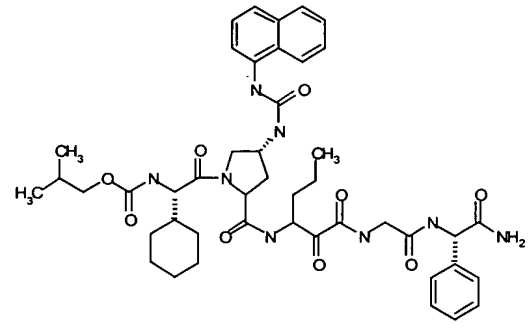


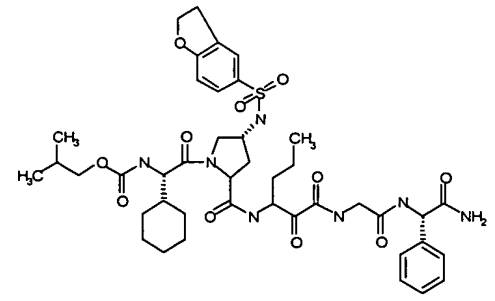


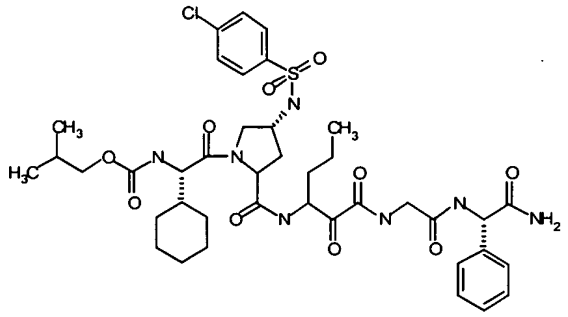


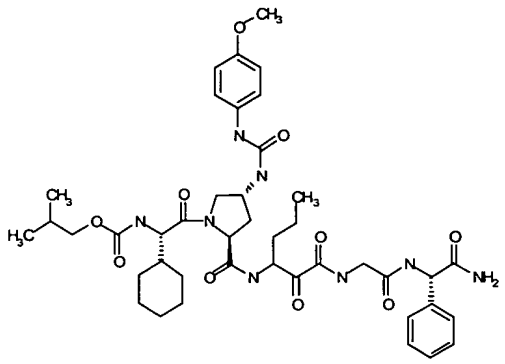


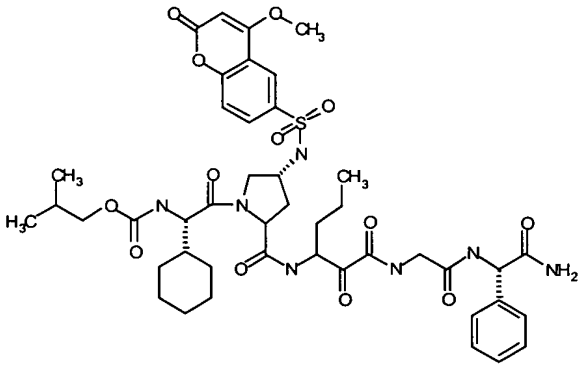


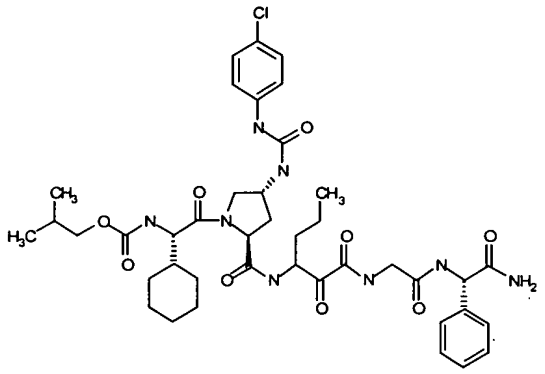


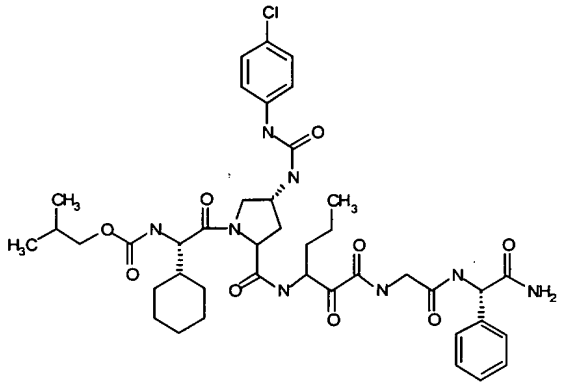


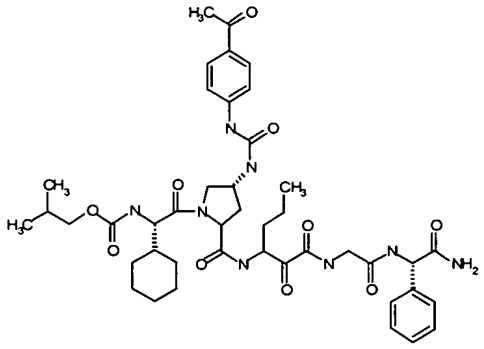


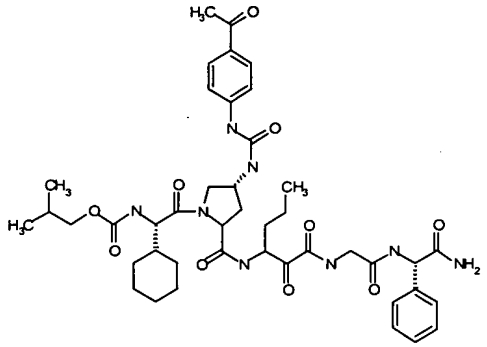


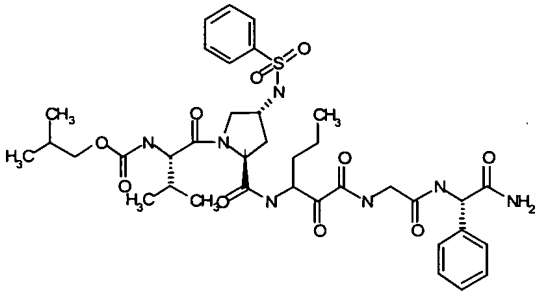


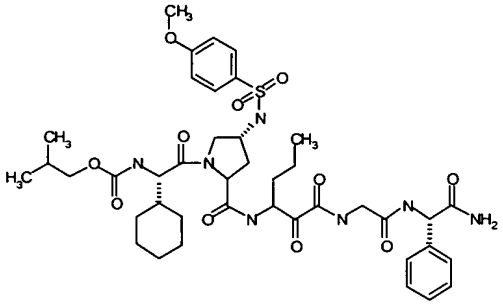


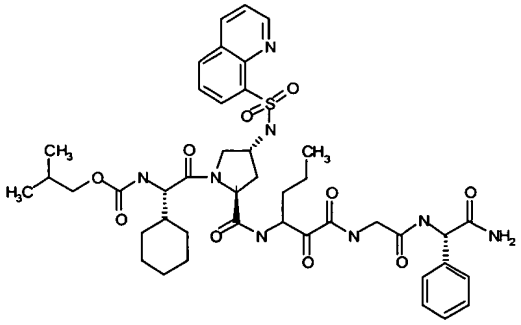


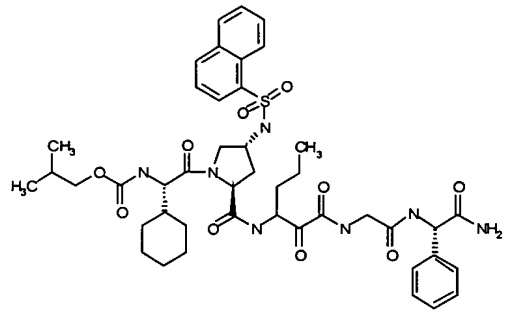


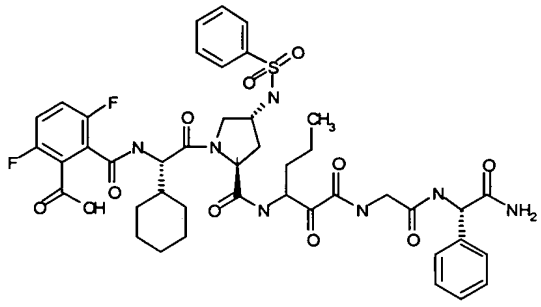


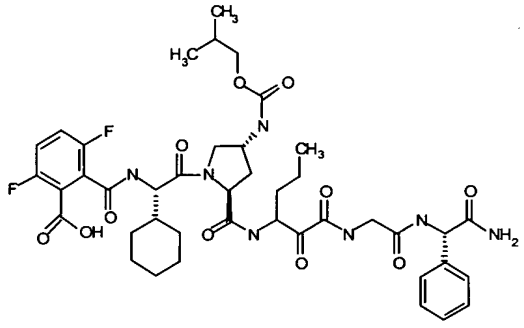


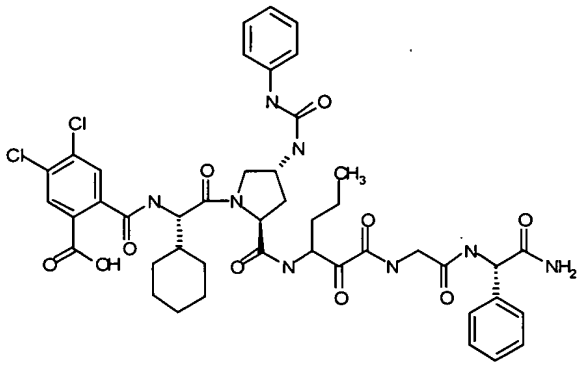


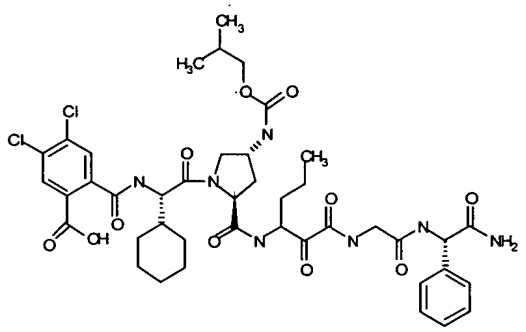


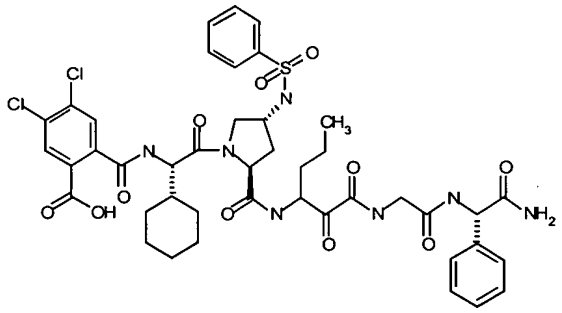


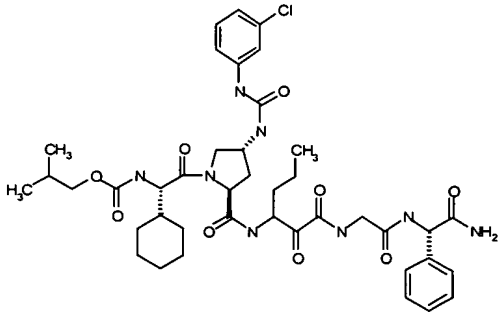


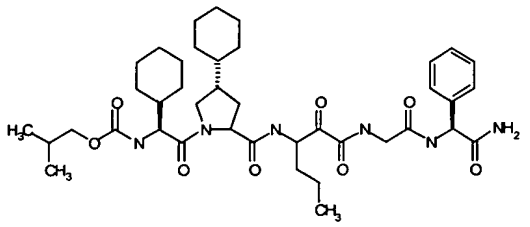


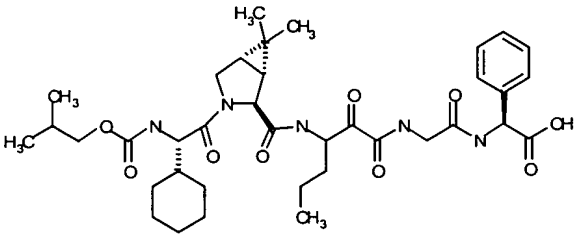


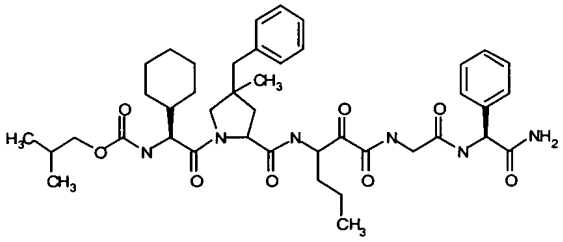


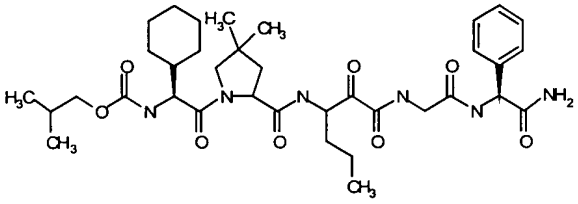


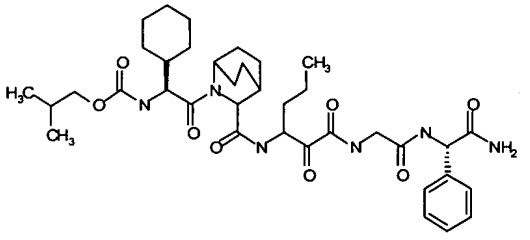


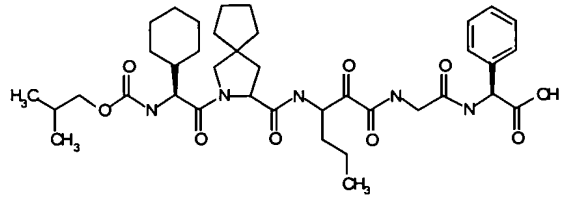


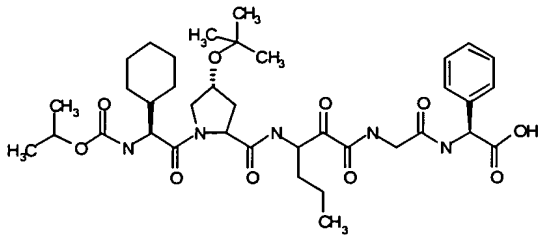


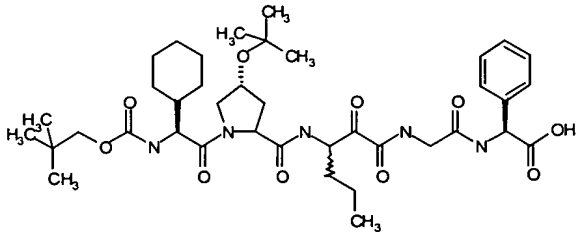


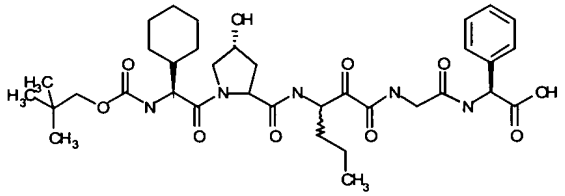


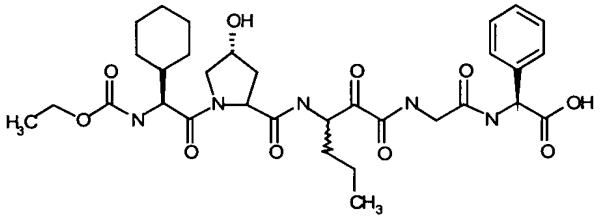


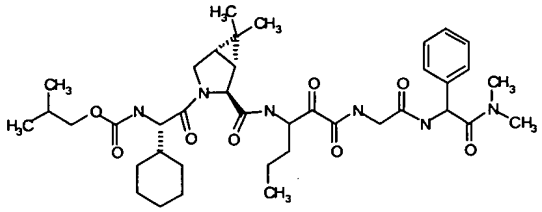


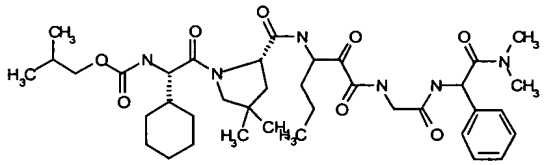


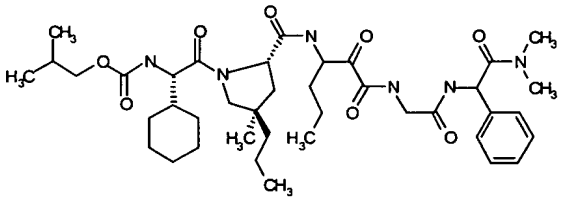


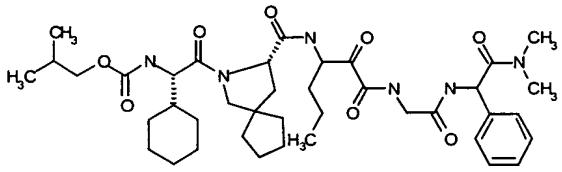


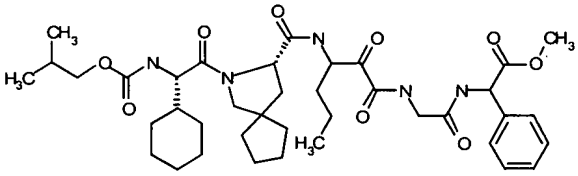


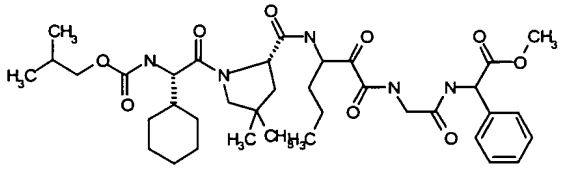


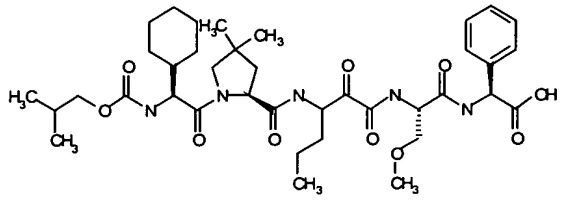


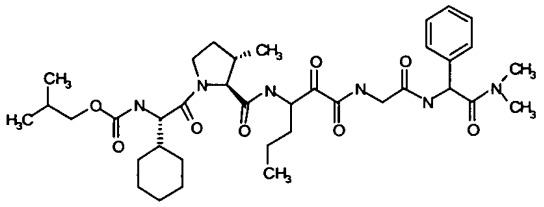


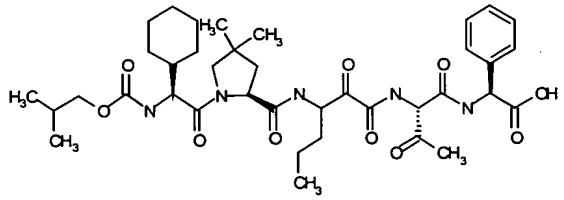


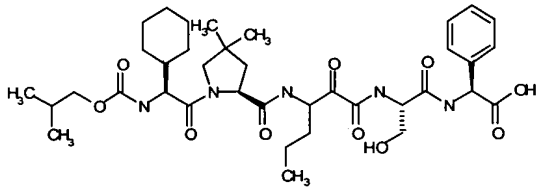


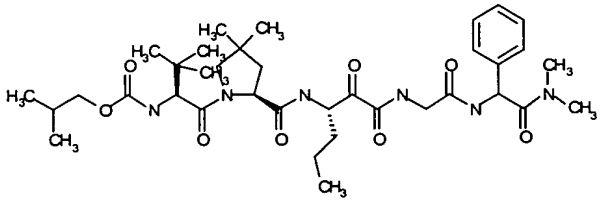


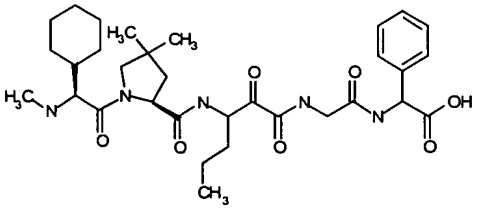


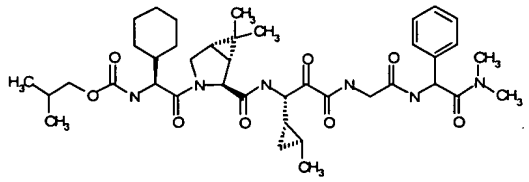


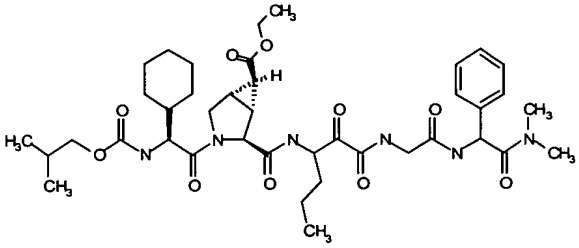


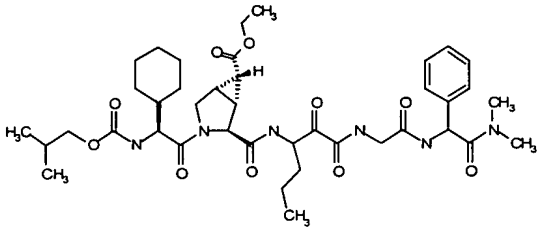


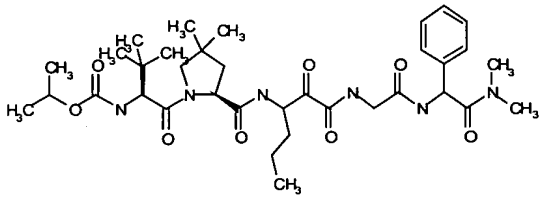


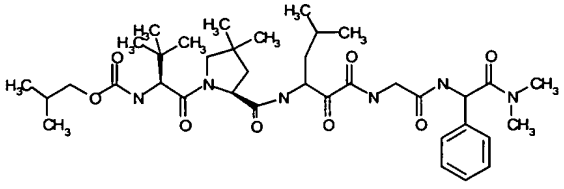


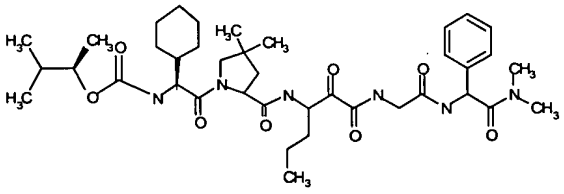


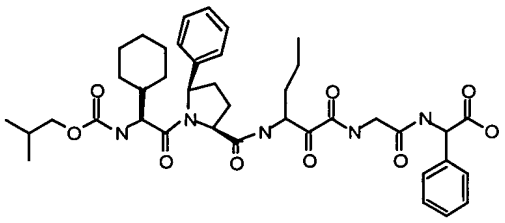


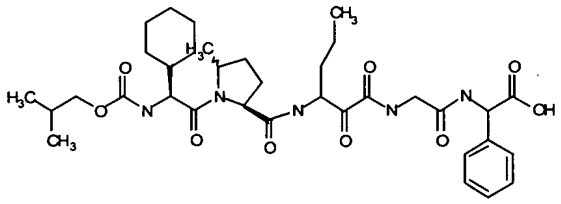


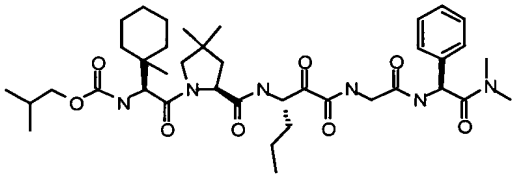


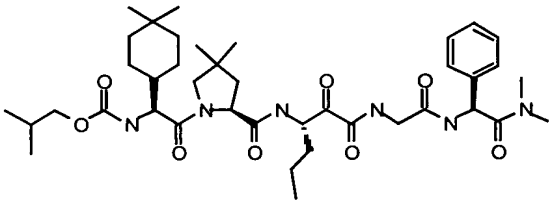


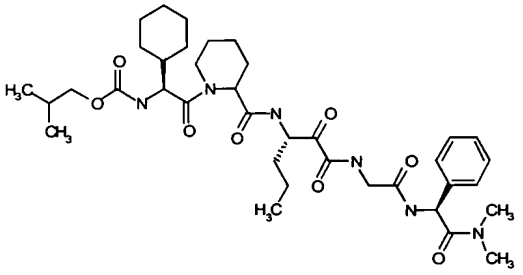


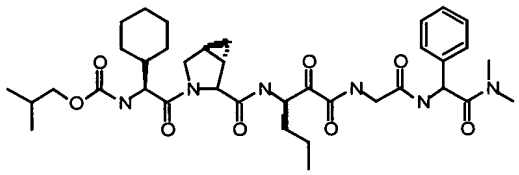


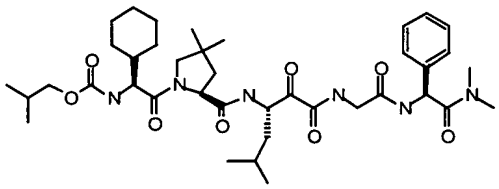


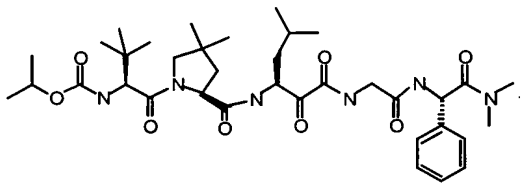


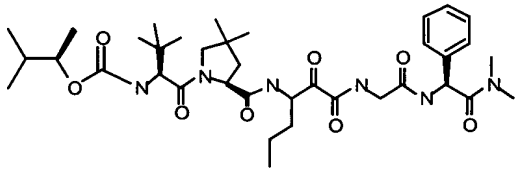


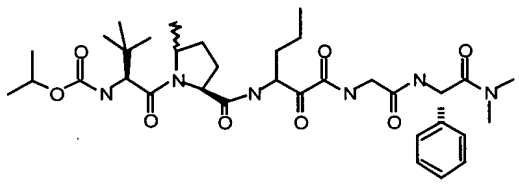


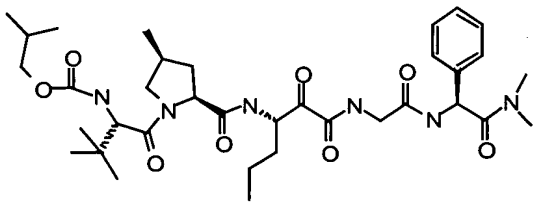


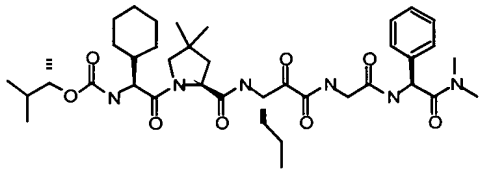


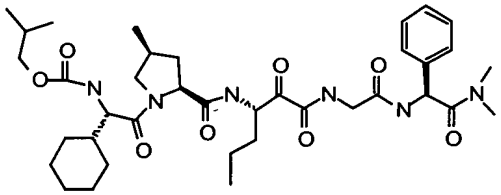


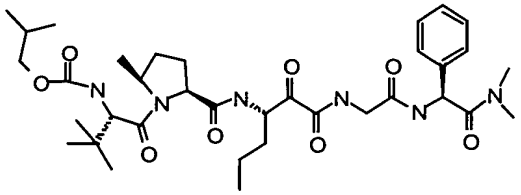


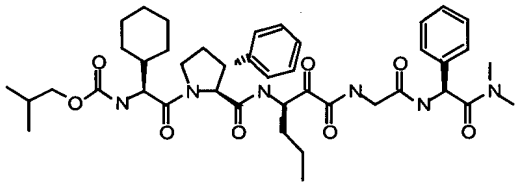


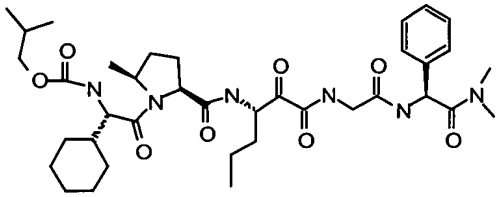


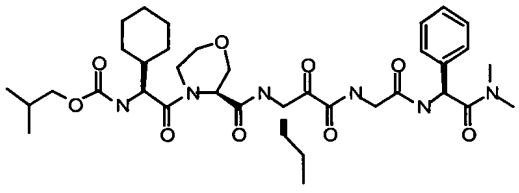


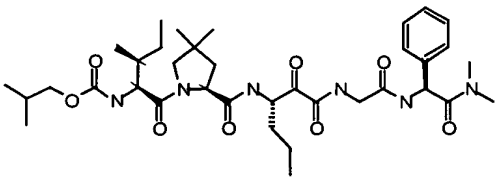


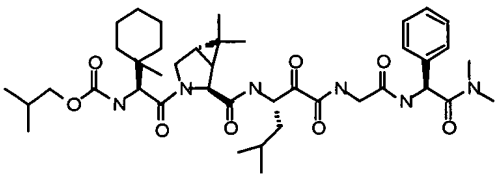


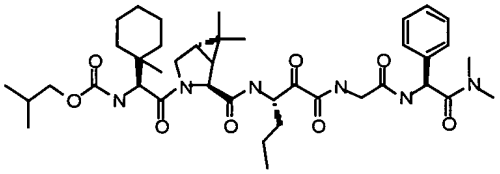


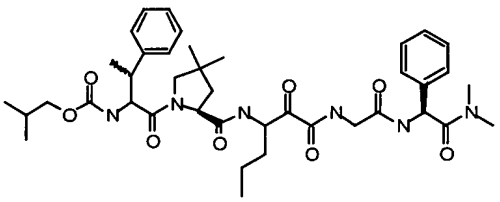


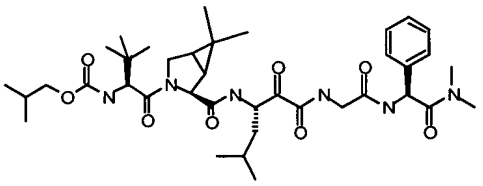


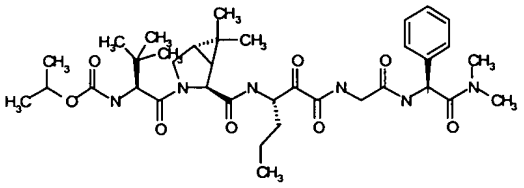


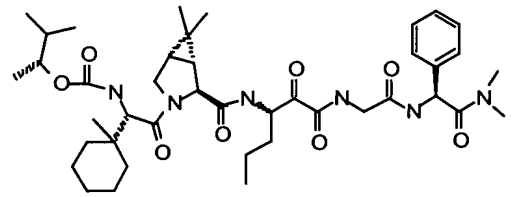


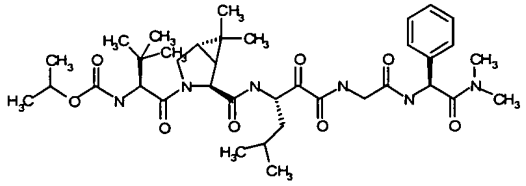


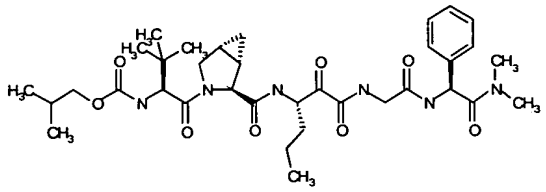


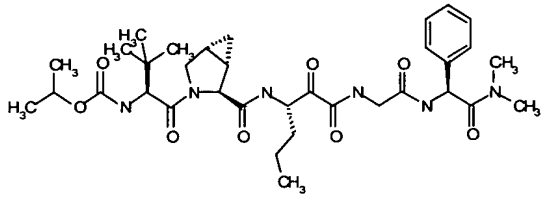


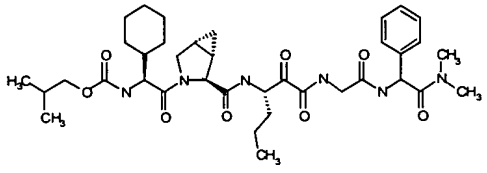


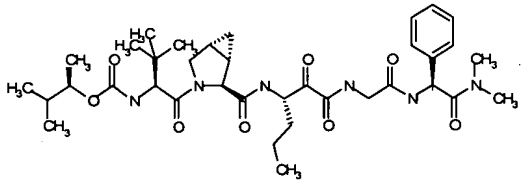


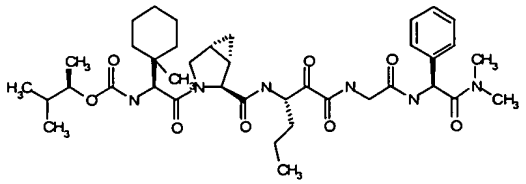












40. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition for treating disorders associated with the hepatitis C virus (HCV), said composition comprising therapeutically effective amount of one or more compounds in claim 39 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

41. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 40, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

42. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 41, still additionally containing an interferon or pegylated-interferon alpha conjugate.

43. (original) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 42, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is α-interferon.

44. (original) A method of treatment of a hepatitis C virus associated disorder, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more compounds of claim 39.

45. (original) A method of modulating the activity of hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease, comprising contacting HCV protease with one or more compounds of claim 39.

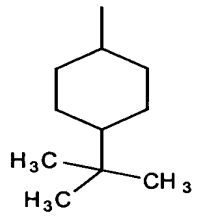
46. (original) A method of treating, preventing, or ameliorating one or more symptoms of hepatitis C, comprising administering an effective amount of one or more compounds of claim 39.

47. (original) The method of claim 45, wherein the HCV protease is the NS3/NS4a protease.

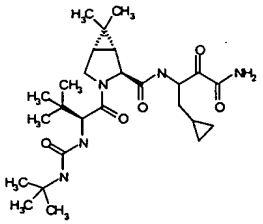
48. (original) The method of claim 47, wherein the compound or compounds inhibit HCV NS3/NS4a protease.

49. (original) A method of modulating the processing of hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide, comprising contacting a composition containing the HCV polypeptide under conditions in which the polypeptide is processed with one or more compounds of claim 39.

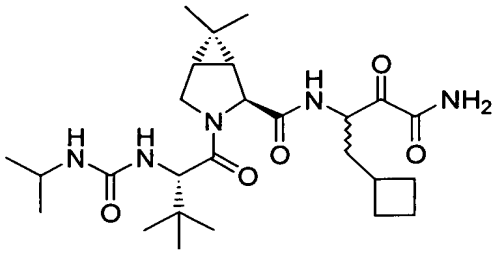
50. (previously presented) The compound of claim 8, wherein R^3 is:



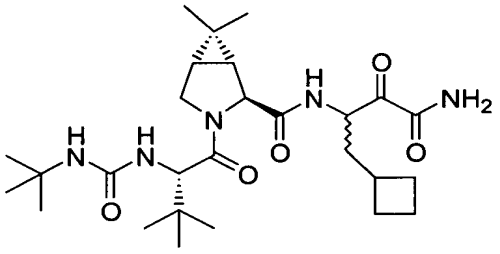
51. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



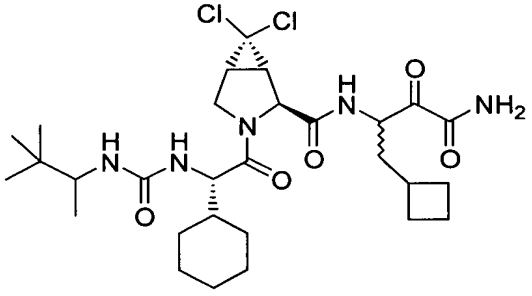
52. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



53. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

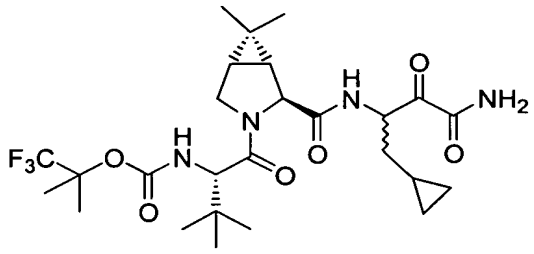


54. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

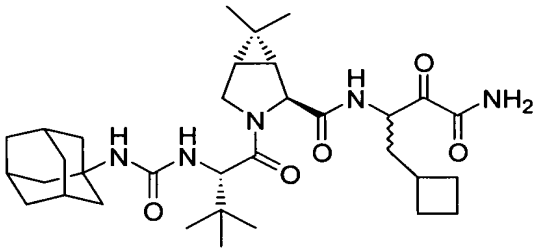


55. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of

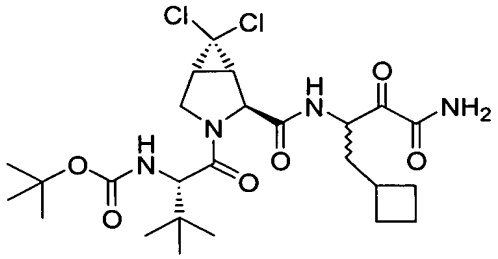
said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



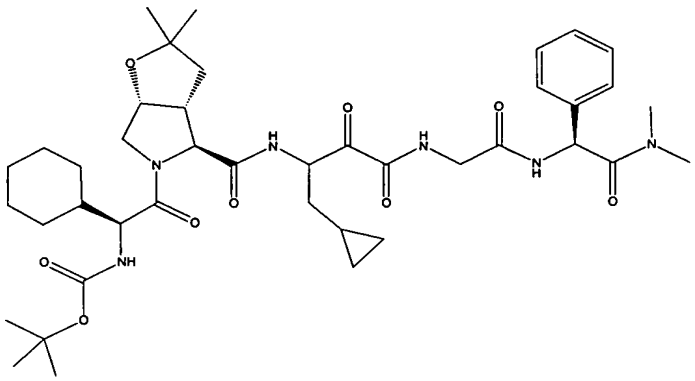
56. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



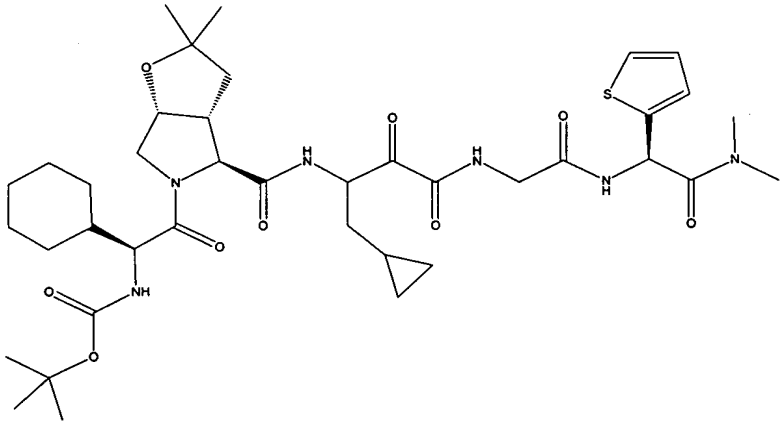
57. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:



58. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

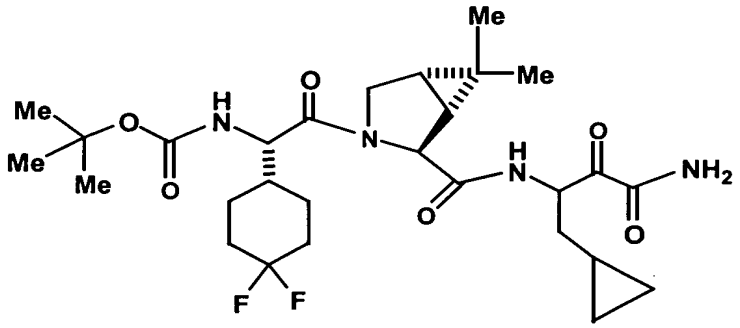


59. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

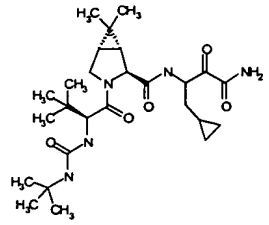


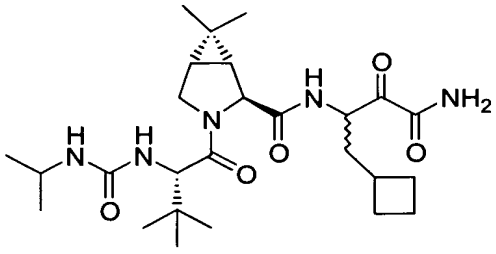
60. (previously presented) A compound exhibiting hepatitis C virus (HCV) protease inhibitory activity, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates

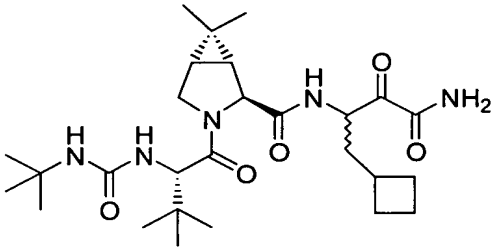
of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being the compound of structure shown below:

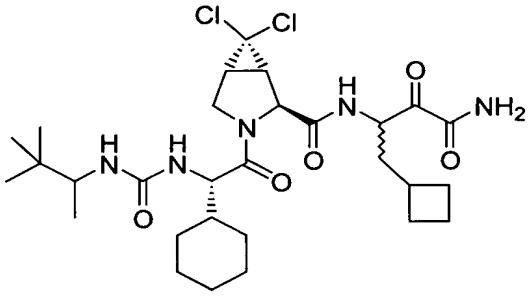


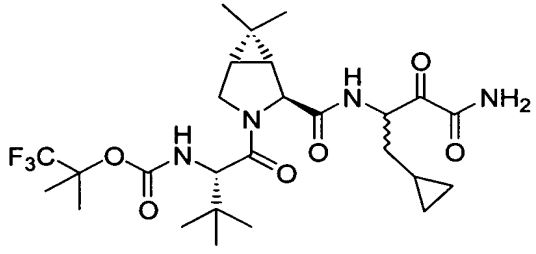
61. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a compound, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being selected from the following:

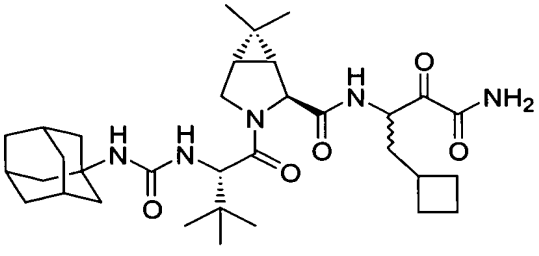


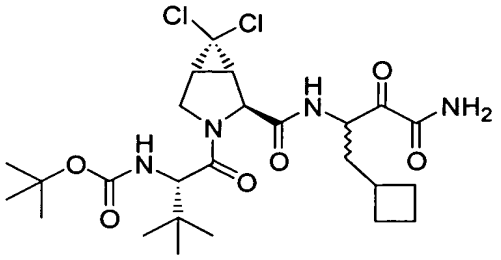


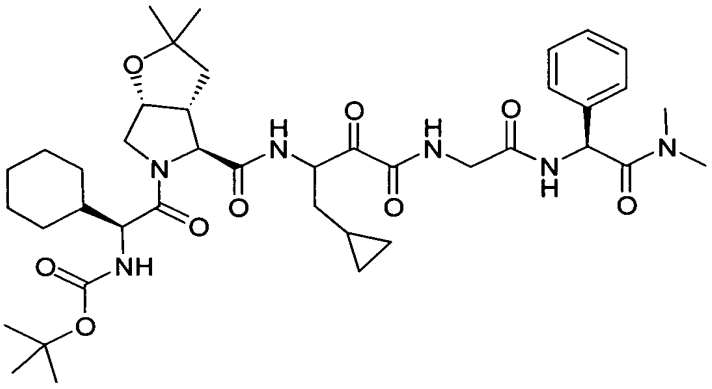


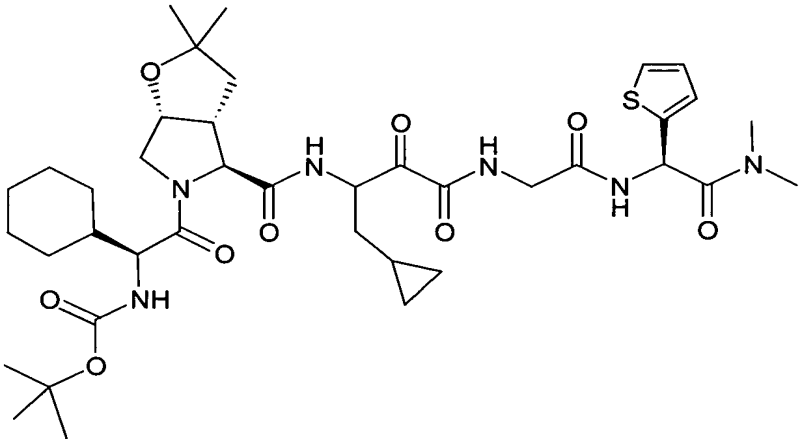


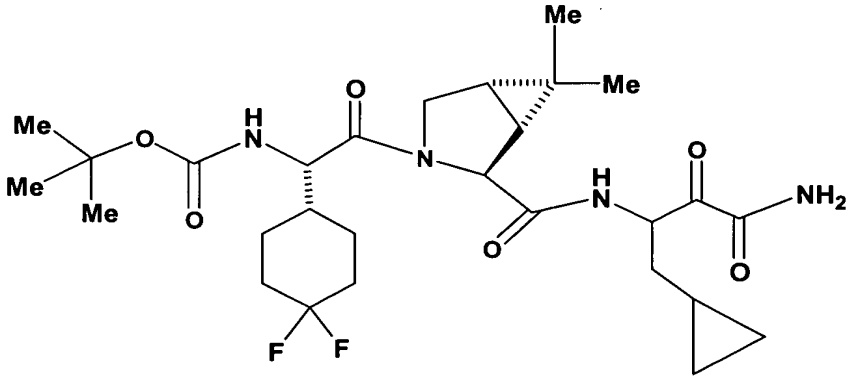










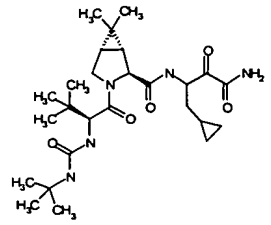


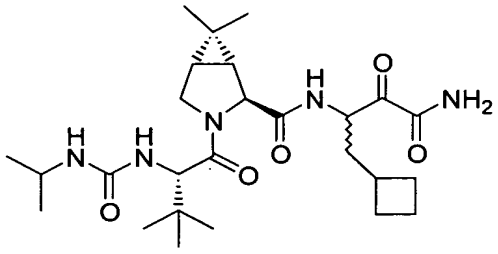
62. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 61, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

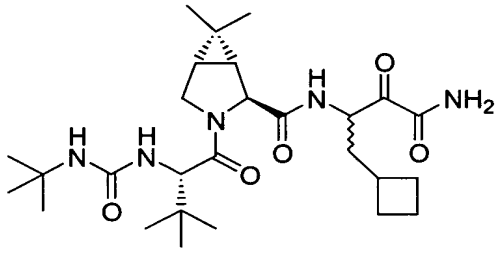
63. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 62, further containing an interferon or pegylated-interferon alpha conjugate.

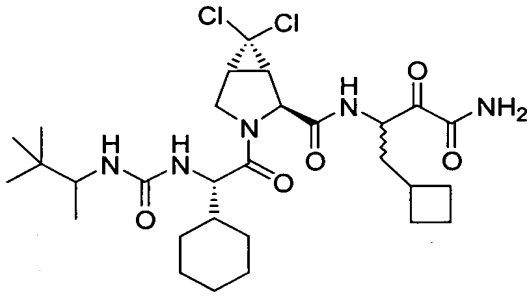
64. (previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 63, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is α-interferon.

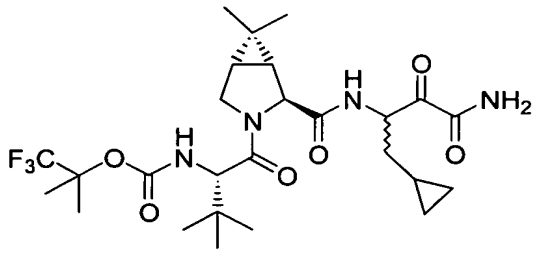
65. (previously presented) A method of treating disorders associated with the HCV, said method comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment, a pharmaceutical composition which comprises therapeutically effective amounts of a compound, including enantiomers, stereoisomers, rotamers, tautomers, racemates and prodrug of said compound, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts or solvates of said compound, or of said prodrug, said compound being selected from the following:

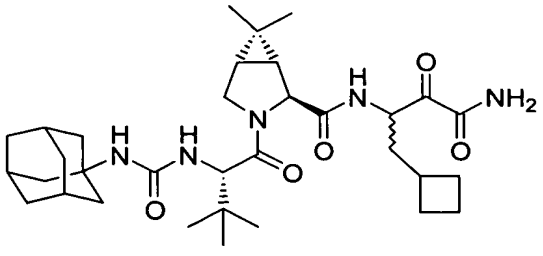


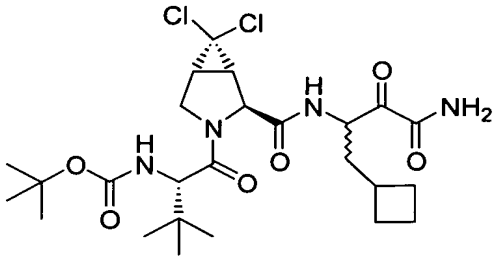


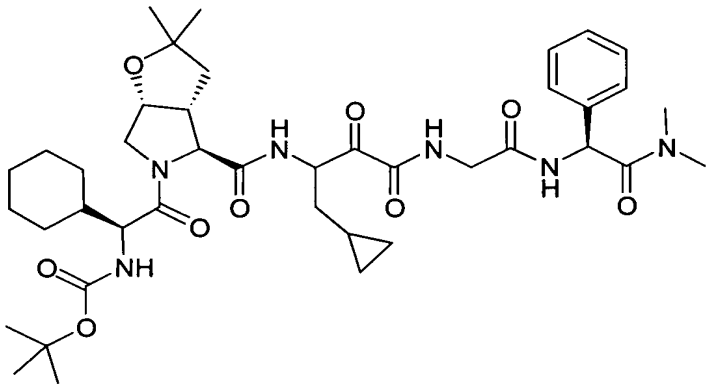


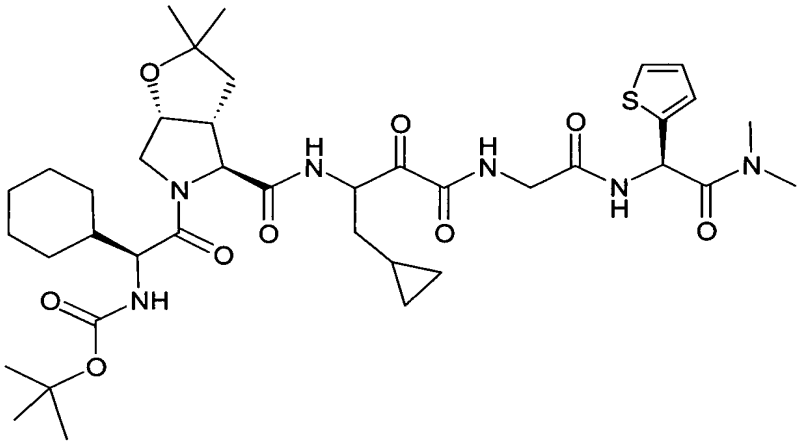


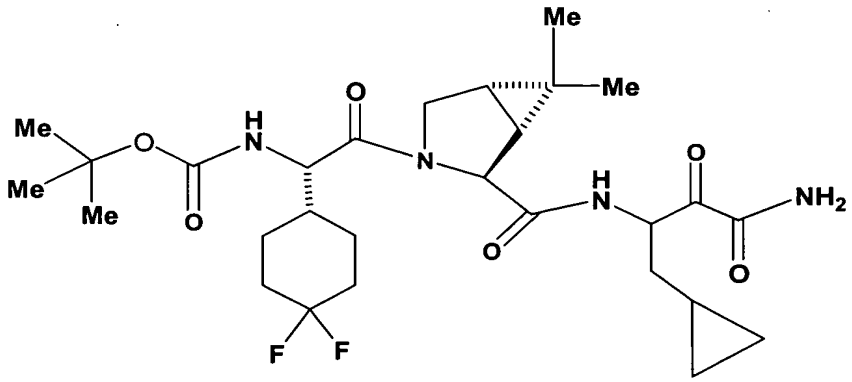




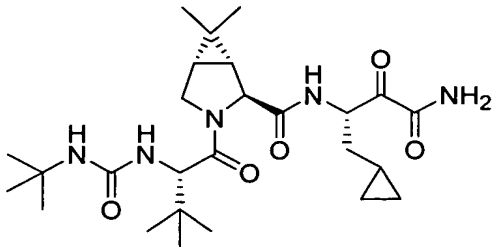




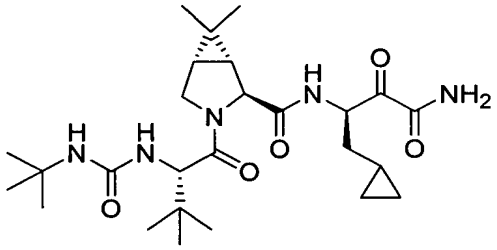




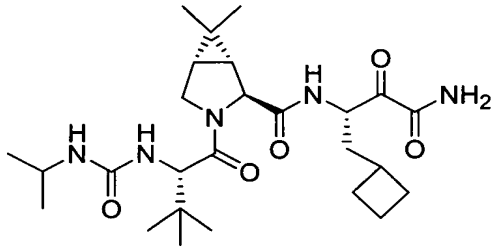
66. (new) A compound of claim 51, which has the formula shown below:



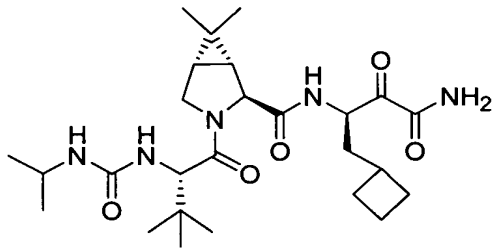
67. new) A compound of claim 51, which has the formula shown below:



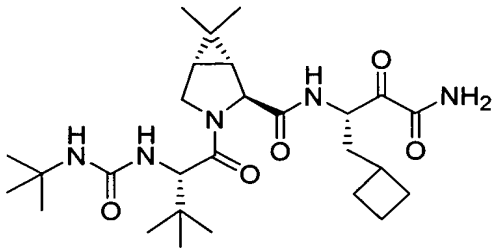
68. (new) A compound of claim 52, which has the formula shown below:



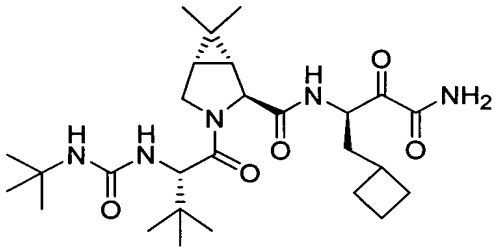
69. (new) A compound of claim 52, which has the formula shown below:



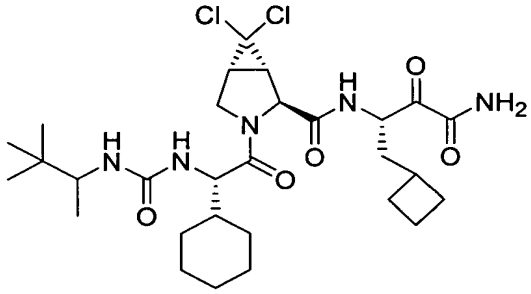
70. (new) A compound of claim 53, which has the formula shown below:



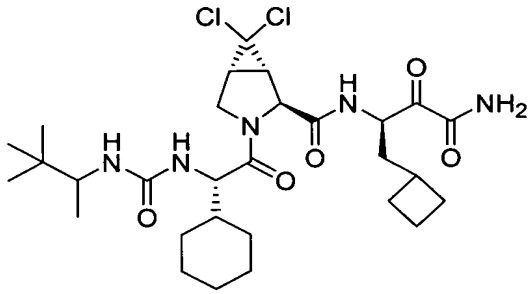
71. (new) A compound of claim 53, which has the formula shown below:



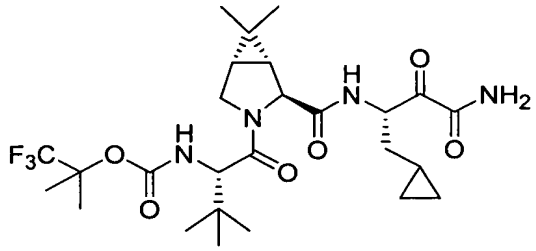
72. (new) A compound of claim 54, which has the formula shown below:



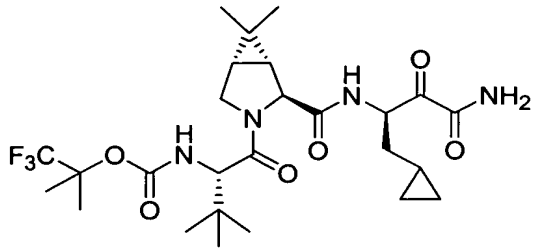
73. (new) A compound of claim 54, which has the formula shown below:



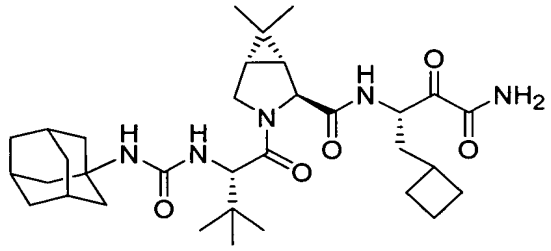
74. (new) A compound of claim 55, which has the formula shown below:



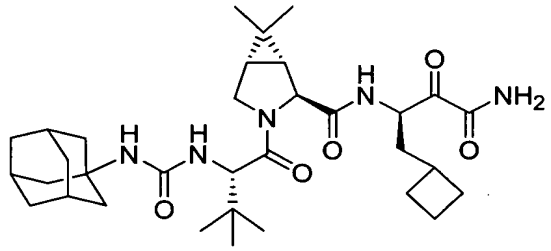
75. (new) A compound of claim 55, which has the formula shown below:



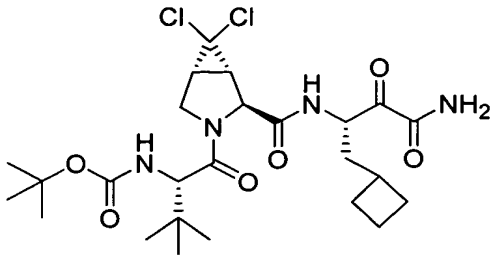
76. (new) A compound of claim 56, which has the formula shown below:



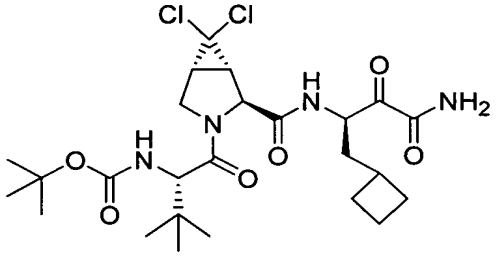
77. (new) A compound of claim 56, which has the formula shown below:



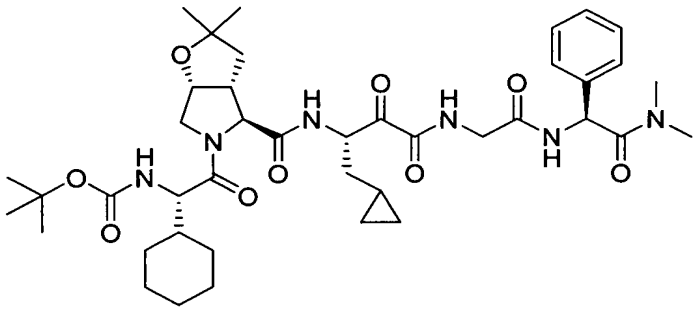
78. (new) A compound of claim 57, which has the formula shown below:



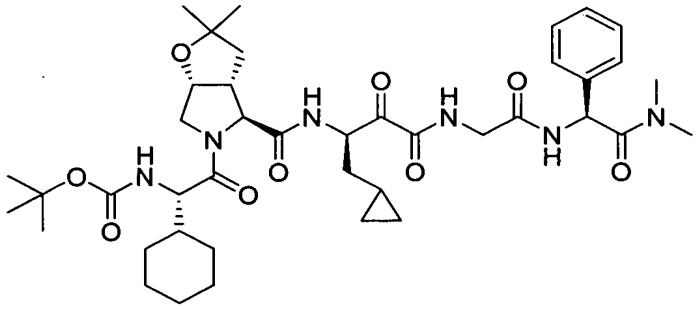
79. (new) A compound of claim 57, which has the formula shown below:



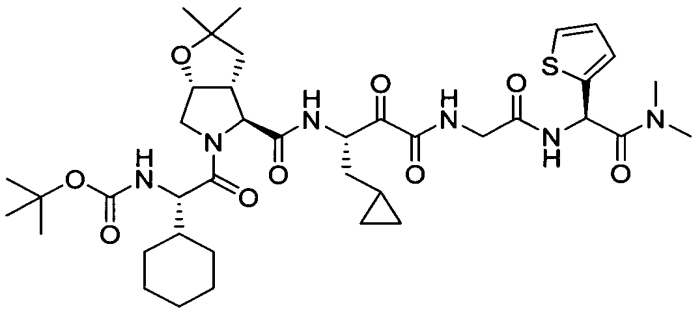
80. (new) A compound of claim 58, which has the formula shown below:



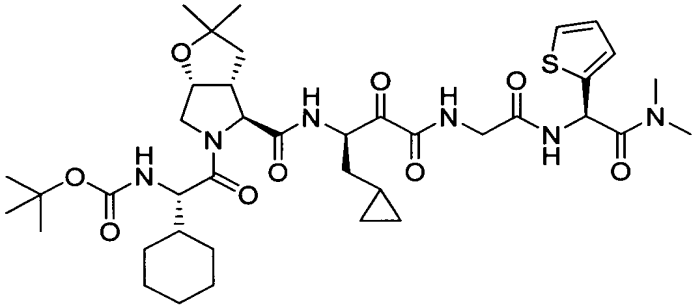
81. (new) A compound of claim 58, which has the formula shown below:



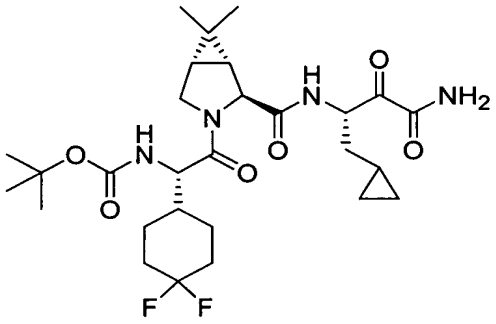
82. (new) A compound of claim 59, which has the formula shown below:



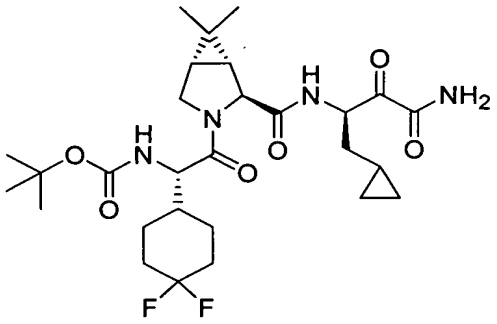
83. (new) A compound of claim 59, which has the formula shown below:



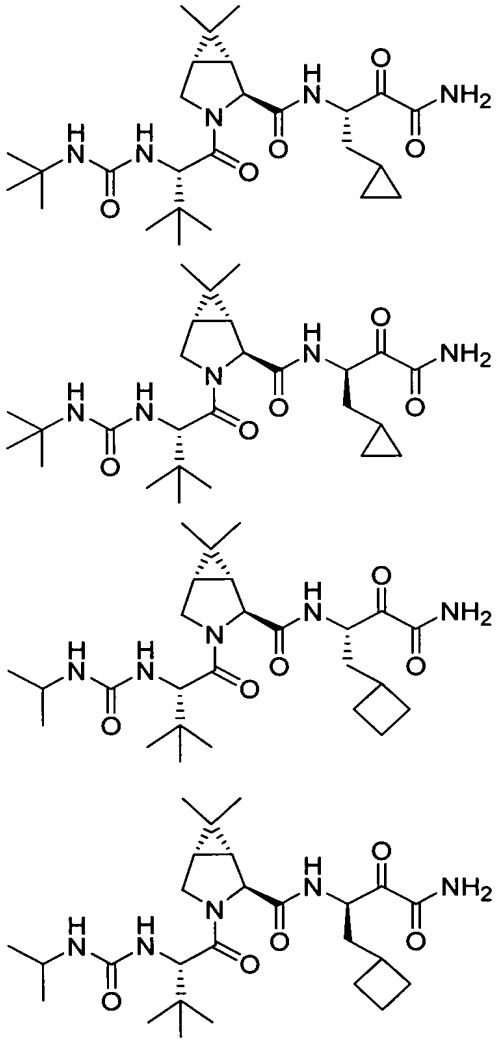
84. (new) A compound of claim 60, which has the formula shown below:

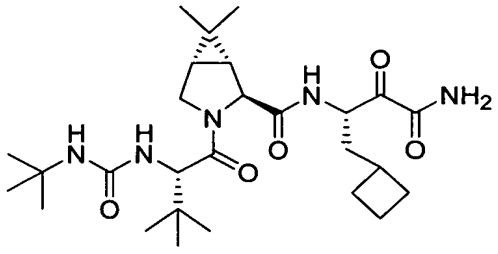


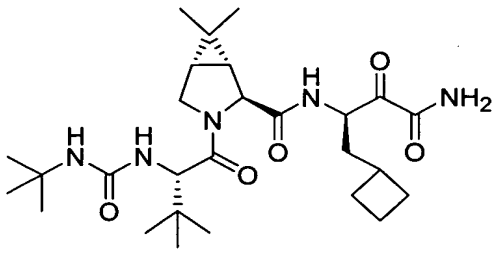
85. (new) A compound of claim 60, which has the formula shown below:

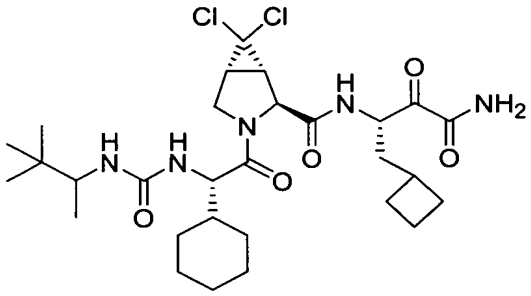


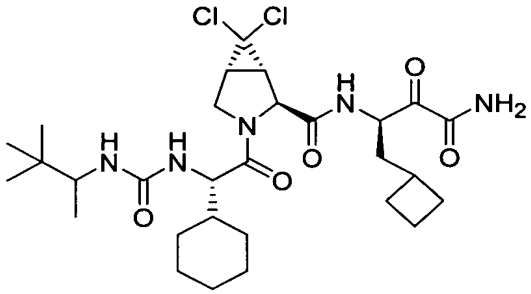
86. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 61, wherein said compound is selected from the following:

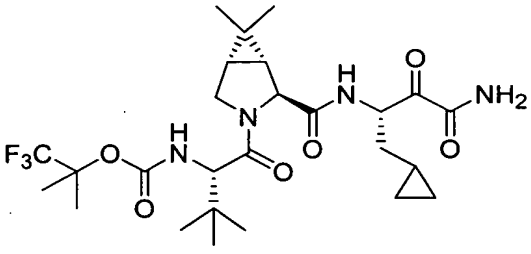


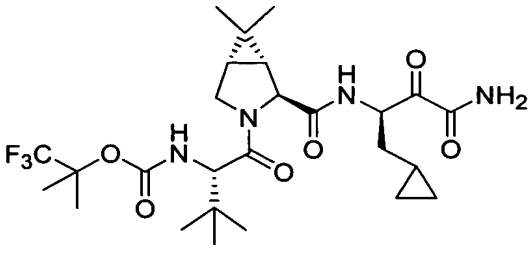


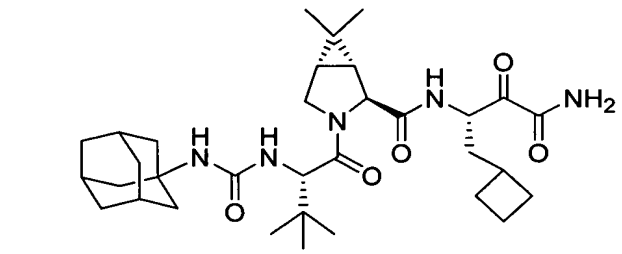


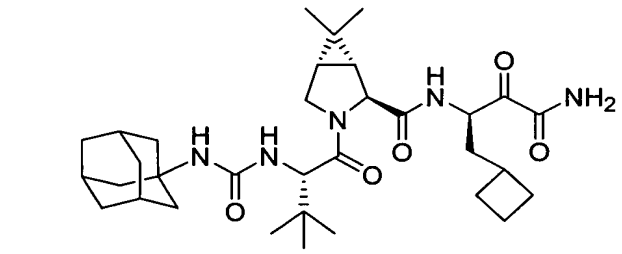


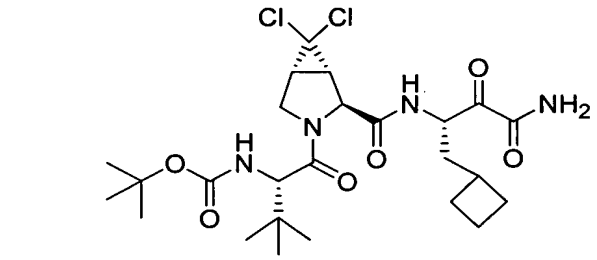


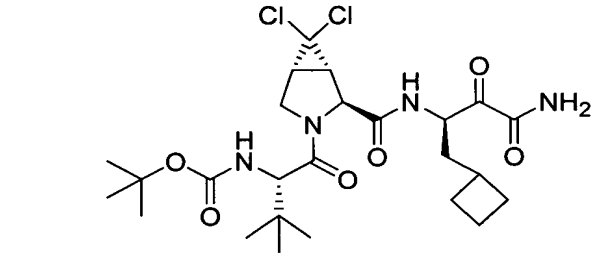


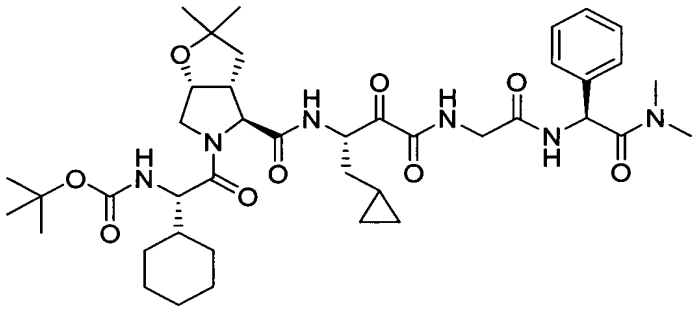


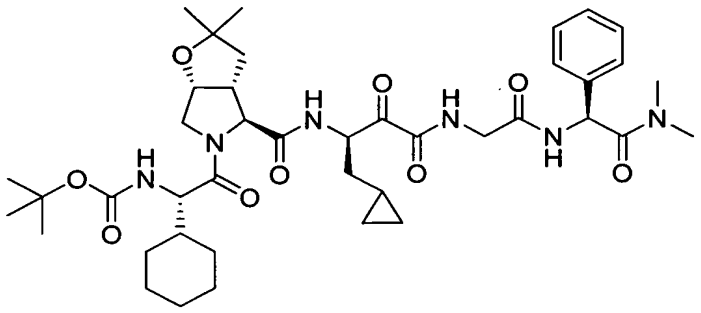


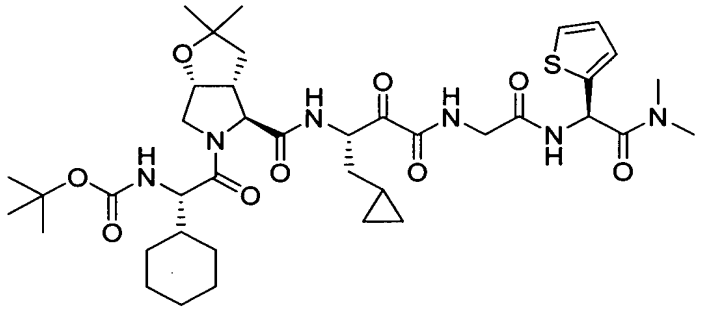


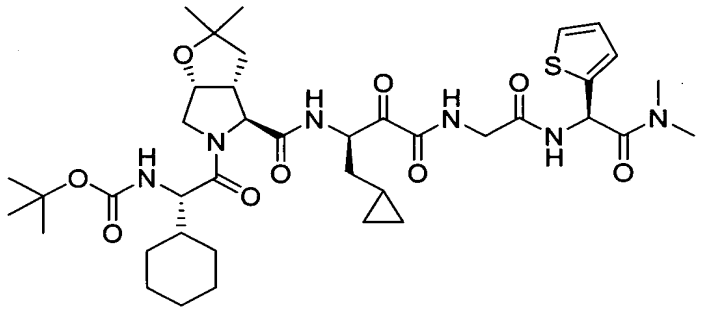


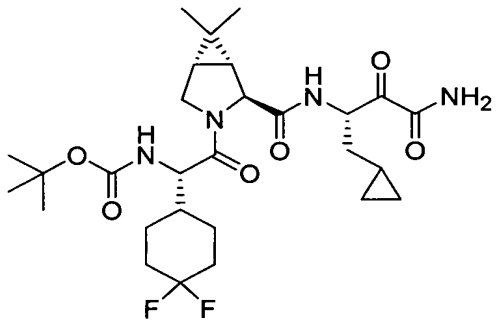


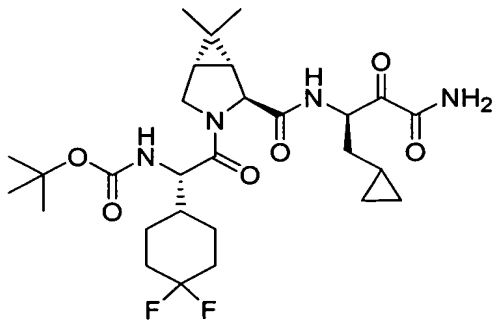












87. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 86, additionally containing an antiviral agent.

88. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 87, additionally containing an interferon or pegylated-interferon alpha conjugate.

89. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 88, wherein said antiviral agent is ribavirin and said interferon is alpha-interferon.

90. (new) The method of claim 65, wherein said compound is selected from the following: